



Vol. 4

COLLECTED

ALL NEW
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

IRIS



Brian
BUCCELLATO

Pasquale
QUALANO

John
STARR

Josh
REED

Created by
David Wohl,
Michael Turner
and Brad Foxhoven

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

THE COMPLETE FOURTH VOLUME!

#1
COVER A

10
FOR
10

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

brian BUCCELLATO • pasquale QUALANO • john STARR • josh REED

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ALL NEW
EXECUTIVE
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HONOR BOUND

PART 1 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

- story -

PASQUALE QUALANO

- pencils -

CHAZ RIGGS

- digital inks -

JOHN STARR

- colors -

JOSH REED

- lettering -

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS

AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP

Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue I

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The story so far...

They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with discipline, loyalty and often times violence, if necessary. They are the Executive Assistants.

WUHAN, CHINA: A MODERN CITY WITH ANCIENT ROOTS THAT GO BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

IT'S RICH WITH CULTURE, HAS A THRIVING RIVERFRONT AND HAS BEEN A CENTER OF LEARNING FOR CENTURIES.

FOR A CAPITAL CITY WITH A POPULATION OF NINE MILLION, IT'S SURPRISING HOW OFTEN IT'S OVERLOOKED.

I WAS BORN HERE... I WENT TO SCHOOL HERE... FOR ALMOST HALF MY LIFE I CALLED THIS PLACE HOME.

I SHOULD REMEMBER IT BETTER.


IT'S NOT SURPRISING
THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN
SO MUCH.



WHEN YOUR EARLIEST DAYS ARE SPENT IN
DICKENSIAN ORPHANAGES OR AMONG THE VERMIN
IN THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE CITY, THERE'S
NOTHING WORTH REMEMBERING.



WHEN THE STENCH OF
MALNUTRITION AND SUFFERING
PERMEATE EVERYTHING, YOU DON'T
WONDER WHY THIS IS HAPPENING...
YOU WONDER WHY YOU'RE
STILL ALIVE.



WHEN ORPHANS DIE OF
STARVATION, SICKNESS, OR
THROUGH VIOLENCE, THE PANGS
YOU FEEL AREN'T EMPATHY...
THEY'RE JEALOUSY.

...BECAUSE THEY
ARE FREE AND YOU
ARE FORCED TO LIVE
ANOTHER DAY.

AND THE DAY A STRANGE MAN
TAKES YOU BY THE HAND AND
OFFERS YOU FOOD, SHELTER AND
AN EDUCATION... YOU DON'T
JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO MAKE
SOMETHING OF YOURSELF...

YOU SECRETLY HOPE HE HAS
WICKED INTENTIONS AND YOU
JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO DIE.

THAT'S WHO I WAS WHEN
I JOINED THE ACADEMY.
WITHOUT HOPE OR FEAR.
I WAS NOTHING.

IT'S WHERE I NEEDED
TO START...TO BE BUILT UP...
TO PROPERLY LEARN THIS
TRADE.

IT'S WHY I LEARNED
THE VALUE OF HONOR
AND LOYALTY. IT'S
WHAT MADE ME AN
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT.



RIGHT THIS
WAY, MISS IRIS...
WITH THE OTHER
APPLICANTS.



MISS ANG
WILL BE WITH
YOU SHORTLY.
CAN I GET YOU
ANYTHING?

NO,
THANK
YOU.




THEY
WALK OUT DUE TO
INTIMIDATION.



THAT'S
ONE WAY TO
NARROW DOWN
THE FIELD...
IRIS.





IT SEEMS YOU
TWO ARE THE LAST
ONES STANDING. THANK YOU
BOTH FOR APPLYING FOR THE
POSITION OF **EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**.

I'M NOT
SURE WHAT YOU
KNOW ABOUT ME,
BUT I'M--

<YOU'RE MALY ANG...
OWNER OF ANG COMPOUNDS AND
ANG COSMETICS AND A MAJOR SHAREHOLDER
IN SHAO LABORATORIES. ALTHOUGH YOU ARE OF
CAMBODIAN ORIGIN, YOU'RE A PROTÉGÉ OF THE
LEGENDARY CHINESE BILLIONAIRE HAN LI SHAO...
AND YOUR WUHAN-BASED COMPANIES ARE THE
LARGEST PROVIDERS OF AGRICULTURAL
CHEMICALS, WORLDWIDE.>*

*TRANSLATED
FROM KHMER.

WELL DONE.
YOUR ABILITY TO
GOOGLE SEARCH IS
IMPRESSIVE. YOUR GRASP
ON BASIC MANNERS IN THE
WAY YOU INTERRUPTED
MS. ANG... MUCH LESS
IMPRESSIVE.

<AND
I ALSO SPEAK
CAMBODIAN.>



AS LONG
AS WE ARE LISTING
CREDENTIALS... FULL
DISCLOSURE:



SNAPDRAGON,
TOP OF YOUR CLASS OUT
OF THE NOW DEFUNCT XIANJIANG
ACADEMY. AN EXPERT MARKSMAN,
KNOWN FOR YOUR TENACITY AND
SPOTLESS RECORD... HAVING
NEVER FAILED AN
EMPLOYER.



EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT IRIS... ALREADY
A LEGEND AT 28 YEARS OF
AGE. RECOGNIZED THE WORLD
OVER FOR YOUR BEAUTY, YOUR
STEADINESS UNDER THE MOST
DIRE SITUATIONS AND FOR
YOUR UNPARALLELED
FIGHTING SKILLS...

DON'T
FORGET HER
PERFECT RECORD.
TWO EMPLOYERS...
TWO DEATHS.

IT APPEARS
THIS COMPETITION
IS STARTING TO
HEAT UP.

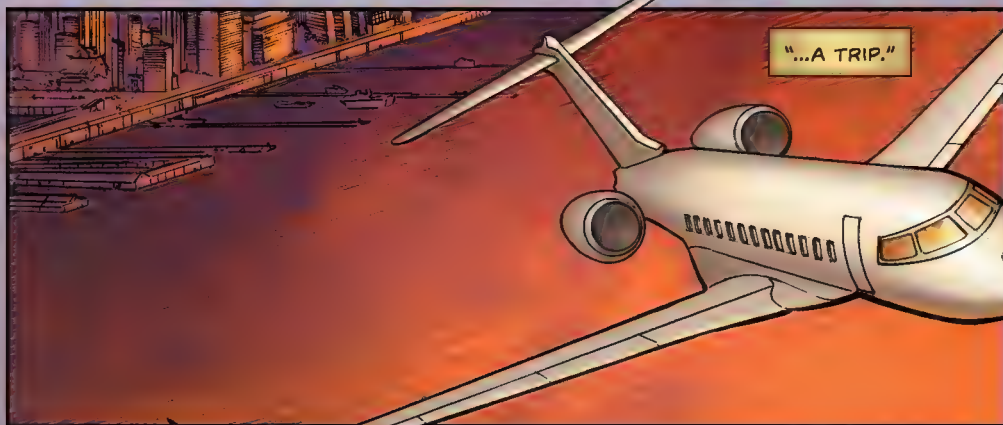


IF IT IS
TRULY BETWEEN
"SNAPDRAGON" AND
I... MIGHT I SUGGEST
A METHOD OF
ELIMINATION?

WORKS
FOR ME.



ACTUALLY,
I HAVE SOMETHING
ELSE IN MIND...



"...A TRIP."

SHINJUKU DISTRICT, TOKYO

PURPLE BLOSSOM
NIGHTCLUB, AFTER HOURS.

I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
TAKING DRAGON DOWN A PEG,
BUT I AM INTRIGUED WITH
MALY'S HIRING METHOD'S.

I DO ADMIRE HER
DESIRE TO WITNESS OUR
WORK FIRST HAND...

...STILL, JETSETTING TO AN
IMPROMPTU MEETING HAS MADE
MY CUSTOMARY PREPARATION
IMPOSSIBLE.

THANK YOU
FOR TRAVELING OUT
HERE ON SUCH SHORT
NOTICE, MISS ANG.

AND JUDGING BY THIS
COLLECTION OF UNSAVORY
LOOKING MEN, I HAVE THE
FEELING THAT SHE WILL GET
TO WITNESS OUR FULL
REPERTOIRES.

WHILE MY
BROTHER AND I
APPRECIATE THE EYE
CANDY YOU'VE BROUGHT,
WE CAN'T HELP BUT
NOTICE THAT MISTER
SHAO IS NOT WITH
YOU.

I UNDERSTAND
YOUR CONCERN,
AKINORI... BUT REST
ASSURED THAT I AM
QUALIFIED TO SPEAK
ON BEHALF OF OUR
INTERESTS.

ARE YOU?
PERHAPS
MISTER SHAO
DOESN'T THINK
WE ARE MEN
TO BE TAKEN
SERIOUSLY.

THESE BROTHERS LOOK
FAMILIAR... BUT ARE TOO
YOUNG AND RECKLESS TO BE
OF CONSEQUENCE. HOLDING A
HIGH PROFILE MEETING AT A
NIGHTCLUB? IT'S AN INSULT.

I TOOK
THIS MEETING OUT OF
RESPECT TO YOUR LATE
FATHER. ALL YOU NEED TO
CONCERN YOURSELF WITH
IS WHETHER OR NOT I
TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY.

WORSE, THE OTHERS ARE CONCEALING WEAPONS...
WHICH MEANS THEY ARE EITHER DISREPUTABLE BUSINESS MEN...

...OR HIRED GUNMEN.

YOU
DARE INSULT
US?!

MAYBE
YOU NEED TO
BE TAUGHT A
LESSON!

ENOUGH!

I'M DONE
INDULGING YOU. SIT
DOWN AND ACT LIKE
CIVILIZED BUSINESSMEN
OR THIS MEETING
IS OVER.





<ARE YOU
READY??>

<AND THEN
SOME.>



NOW!

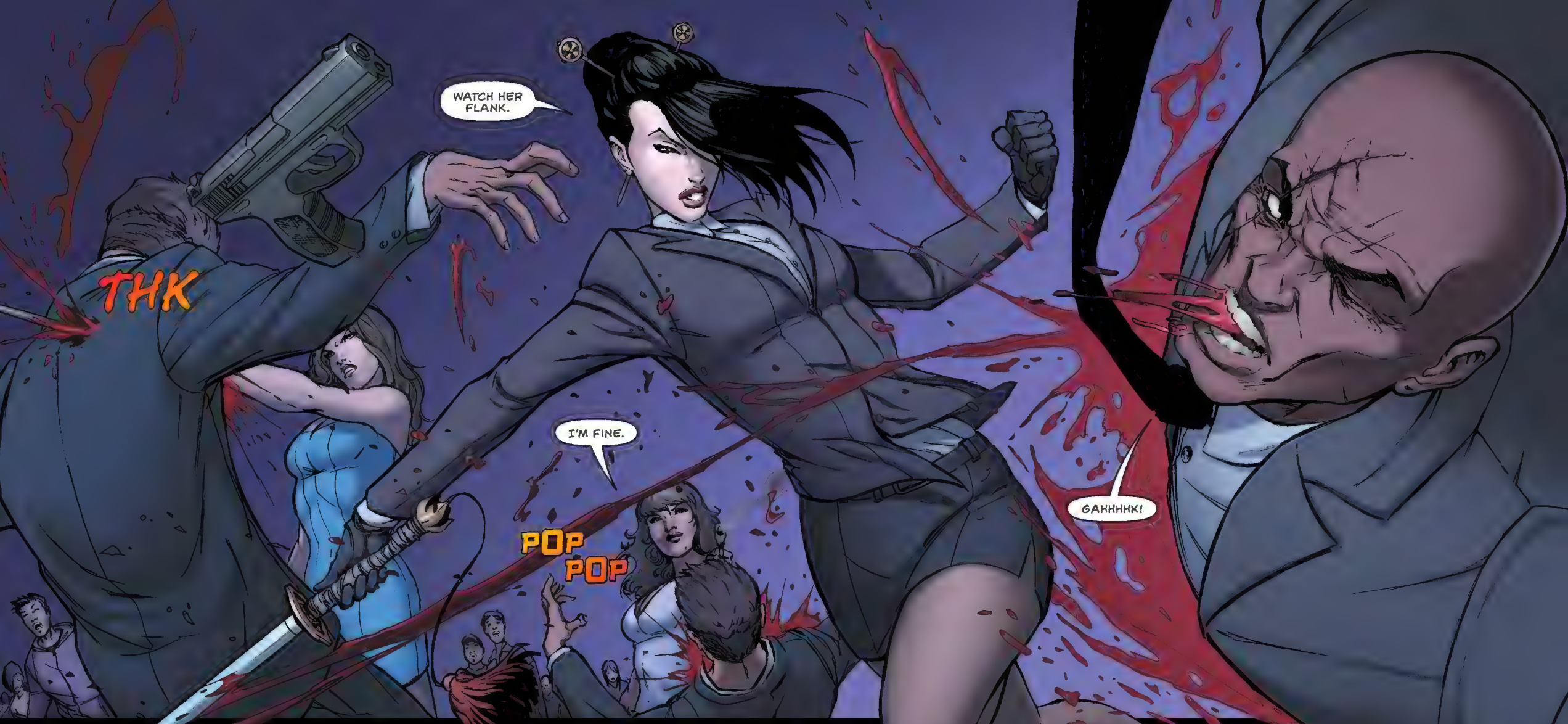
WAY
AHEAD OF
YOU!



THIS ISN'T A
COMPETITION,
DRAGON.

CHA-CHICK

THIS
IS SOOOOOOOO
AMAZING. I'M TOTALLY
POSTING THIS ON
YOUTUBE.



WATCH HER FLANK.

THK

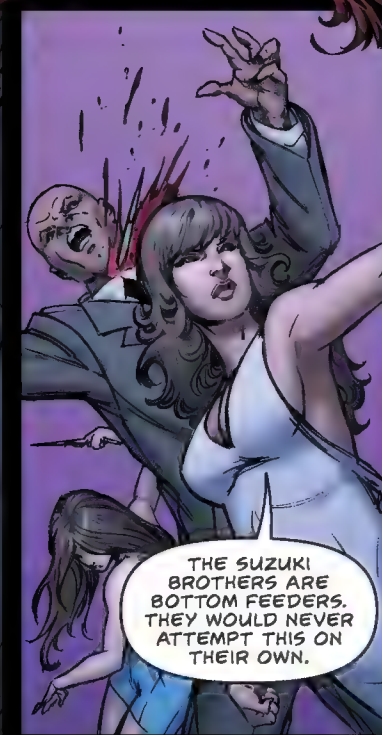
I'M FINE.

POP
POP

GAHHHK!



THIS WAS CLEARLY A SET UP. THE QUESTION IS, WHY?



THE SUZUKI BROTHERS ARE BOTTOM FEEDERS. THEY WOULD NEVER ATTEMPT THIS ON THEIR OWN.



I AGREE. UNLESS THEY KNEW THAT I KILLED THEIR DUPlicitous FATHER YEARS AGO, AND RECOGNIZED ME.

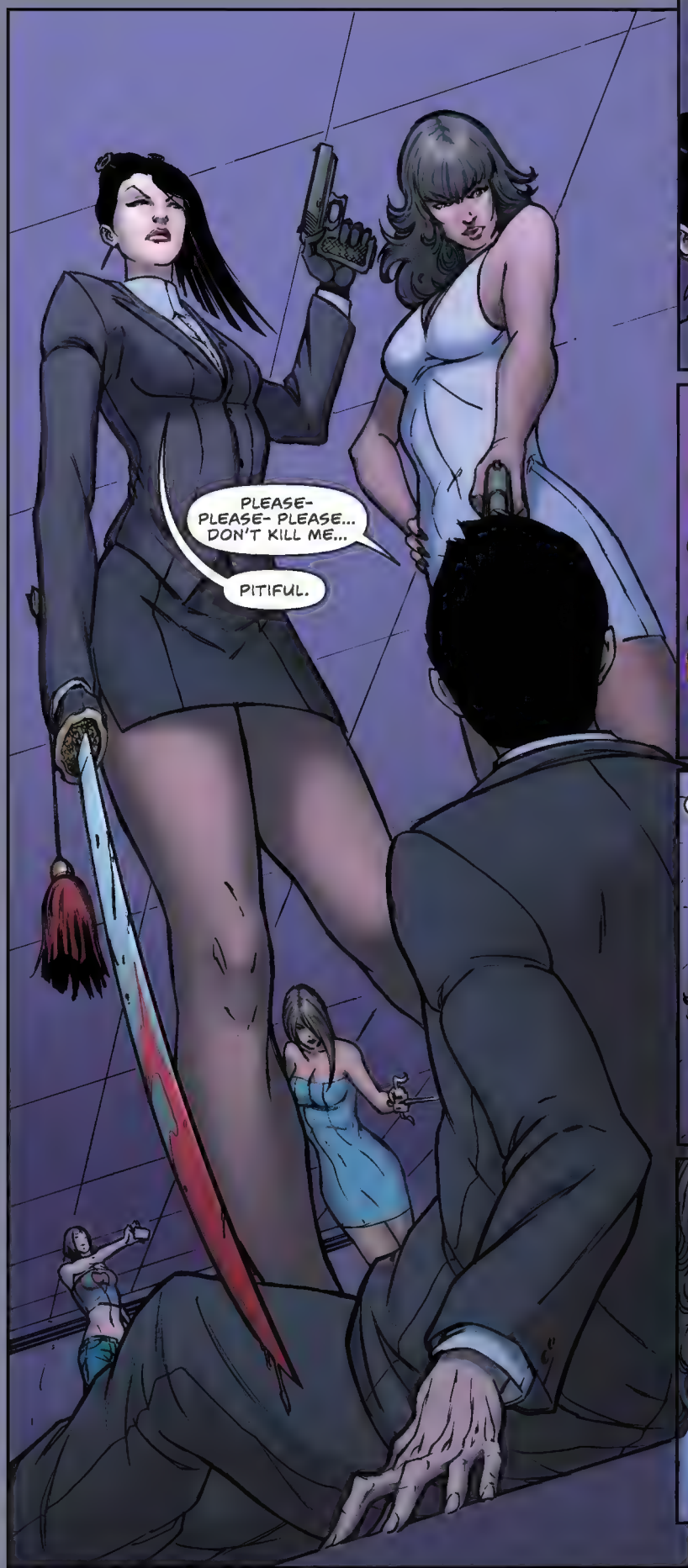


HUH?! YOU... KILLED... FATHER?!

I DID HIM A FAVOR. SAVED HIM THE DISHONOR OF SEEING HIS SON'S COWARDICE.



AWESOME!





YOU DARE SHOW ME UP?!

I WILL DO MUCH MORE THAN THAT, SNAPDRAGON!

KILLING YOU WILL BE ICING ON THE CAKE!

KEEP TALKING, ORPHAN...

WOOSH HHH

CLUMSY.

ENOUGH!

IS THIS HOW YOU DO BUSINESS? WALTZING INTO AMBUSHES... AND KILLING CIVILIANS?!

I'M NOT A MINDLESS ASSASSIN... I'M AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

CONGRATULATIONS, DRAGON...

THE WUHAN ACADEMY.

I OWE MY LIFE TO THE
ACADEMY. NOT THIS ONE...
BUT ONE LIKE IT.

THEY TOOK ME FROM LESS THAN NOTHING AND BUILT ME
UP. THEY TAUGHT ME INNUMERABLE SKILLS AND INSTILLED
VALUES, HONOR AND RESPECT. THEY TRAINED ME HOW
TO LIVE AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

MY FIRST EMPLOYER, MISTER CHING, WAS A MAN OF MEANS WHO PAID
HANDSOMELY FOR THE HONOR OF MY SERVICES. HE NEVER TOOK THIS
LIGHTLY AND HE NEVER TOOK ME FOR GRANTED.

WITH MISTER CHING, I EXPERIENCED A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT FEW EVER
GLIMPSE. I WAS LAVISHED IN LUXURY AND I TRAVELED THE WORLD. IN MY
YEARS OF SERVICE, WE FORMED A BOND BUILT UPON THE ONE THING THAT
DOESN'T COME EASY TO AN ORPHAN FROM THE STREETS. TRUST.

AND THEN HE KILLED
THE MAN I LOVED AND
MY WORLD FELL APART.

SINCE THEN I'VE SOUGHT AN EMPLOYER
THAT I CAN DEVOTE MY LIFE TO. INSTEAD
I HAVE FOUND ONLY DISHONESTY AND
BETRAYAL. THIS IS NOT HOW THINGS ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE.

I LEARNED SO
MUCH ...EXCEPT
HOW TO LIVE ON
MY OWN.

I KNOW
YOU'RE HERE,
MALY...

...I HEARD YOUR
APPROACH.

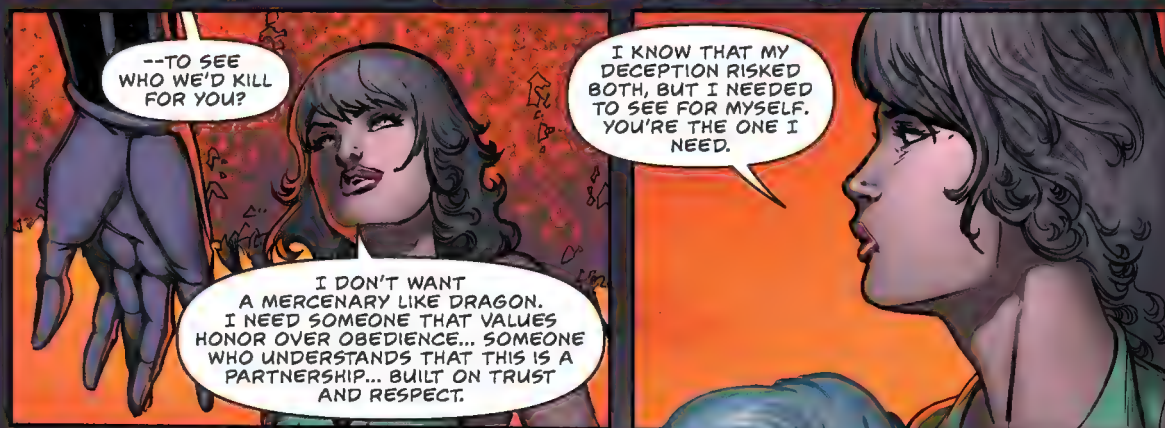


I OWE YOU
AN APOLOGY,
IRIS.

FOR NOT
WARNING ME THAT
YOU WERE LEADING US
INTO AN AMBUSH, OR FOR
ASKING ME TO KILL
AN INNOCENT?

BOTH. I KNEW
IT WAS A SET UP WHEN MISTER
SHAO CANCELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE.
BUT HONOR DICTATED THAT I
KEEP MY COMMITMENT.

I SHOULD'VE TOLD
YOU THE PARAMETERS
BEFOREHAND. BUT I
WANTED TO TEST YOU...
TO SEE HOW YOU'D
REACT--



--TO SEE
WHO WE'D KILL
FOR YOU?

I KNOW THAT MY
DECEPTION RISKED
BOTH, BUT I NEEDED
TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
YOU'RE THE ONE I
NEED.

I DON'T WANT
A MERCENARY LIKE DRAGON.
I NEED SOMEONE THAT VALUES
HONOR OVER OBEDIENCE... SOMEONE
WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS IS A
PARTNERSHIP... BUILT ON TRUST
AND RESPECT.



EVEN IF I
COULD TRUST YOU,
WHY WOULD I WANT
TO INVOLVE MYSELF
WITH YOUR MESSY
AFFAIRS?

WE BOTH
KNOW IT WAS
YOUR MENTOR SHAO
WHO SET YOU UP.
THE QUESTION
IS WHY?

A man in a dark suit and tie is standing on the steps of a ship's open doorway. He is pointing his right index finger towards a small, distant figure in the sky. The background is a fiery orange and red sky with falling debris. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair and a blue jacket looks up with a concerned expression. To her left, another woman with short brown hair and a green top also looks up. A small figure is visible in the sky, surrounded by a green aura.

MALY
ANG!!! YOU
TRAITOR!

HAN LI
SHAO?

TO BE
CONTINUED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #2

CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

ALL NEW
**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**

#2

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ENTERTAINMENT



**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
THRILLING
ISSUE!**

WRITTEN BY:
BRIAN BUCCELLATO

(THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

PENCILS BY:
PASQUALE QUALANO

(IDOLIZED, SOULFIRE: GRACE)

COLORS BY:
JOHN STARR

(LEGEND OF THE SHADOW CLAN, FATHOM, SOULFIRE)

**Featuring A Special Variant
Cover by Superstar Artist
FRANCIS MANAPUL**

NEW HONOR

By Brian Buccellato
Art by Pasquale Qualano

Technically, I'm a new addition to the Aspen creative family. That feels like such a strange thing to say, considering how long I've known these guys. Frank, Peter and I go all the way back to the mid-nineties. I've played mediocre softball and done some seriously inconsistent bowling with them... Vince, Mark, Frank and I have been gymrats and competed on lousy basketball teams together for almost a decade. Poker, parties, holidays, conventions... they've been a major part of my life for so long that it doesn't seem like this is our first dance. But it is, and I'm thrilled and grateful that we finally get to collaborate.

I'm probably even more thrilled that this collaboration is on Executive Assistant: Iris. Why? Because I'm taking the baton from series creator, David Wohl, who I happen to have known for over 25 years. Yeah, I've got history with these fools.

Nostalgia aside, when I was offered the chance to write volume 4, I jumped at the opportunity. Sure, my friendship with the fine folks at Aspen was an added bonus, but the real star of this show was Iris. Let's be real. Her job is awesome, she's a total badass, and she's gone through major adversity in the three previous volumes. In a relatively short time, David and Vince Hernandez (Executive Assistant: Assassins) have managed to put her through the ringer AND craft a fully fleshed out world. So for me, it wasn't about reinventing the world or re-imagining her; it was about using her past to propel her into the future.

That's where this series picks up. Iris has had multiple employers, and asskicked her way to the top of the food chain. She's a living legend and really has no peer. Her life should be on a super high note, but it's not. She's been betrayed too many times and it's taken its toll because lesser men and women have trampled the code of honor she adheres to. She's an executive assistant without an employer worth serving.

Iris is a ronin in search of a cause worth fighting for.

In "Honor Bound", Iris' search for an honorable employer will take her on an unexpected journey that will finally give her life meaning. But it will come in the form of something she least expected.

Needless to say, I'm really proud of this story. Thanks for reading... I hope you stick around for the rest of this ride. It's a doozy.

—B

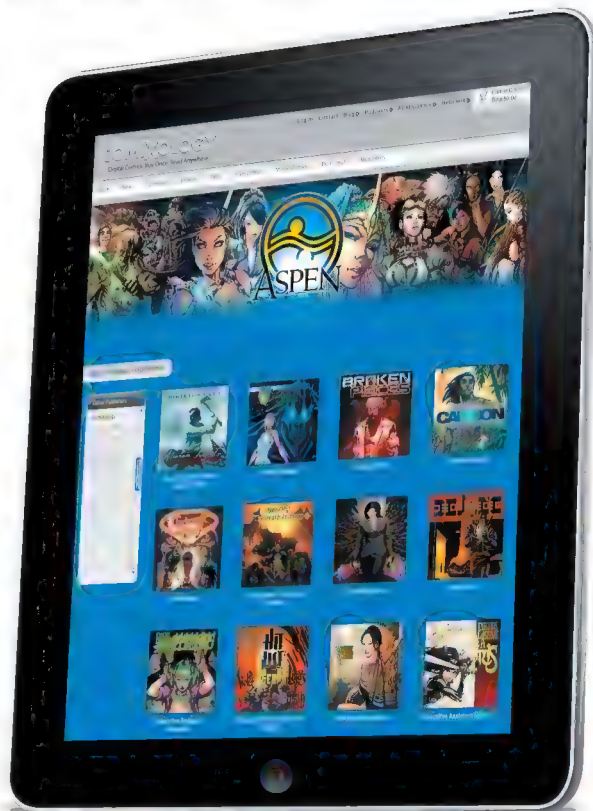


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and John Starr
each month for
this exhilarating
thrill ride as they
bring you...

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ASSISTANT**
IRIS



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Brian Buccellato



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HONOR BOUND

PART 2 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

story

PASQUALE QUALANO

pencils

MARK ROSLAN
& CHAZ RIGGS

digital inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

The story so far...

Iris returned to Wuhan to reclaim some semblance of the honor and loyalty that came with her past life as an Executive Assistant, finding a position available to work for Maly Ang, a powerful businesswoman. The competition for the job came down to her and Snapdragon, a feisty--yet dangerous--adversary, as they defended Maly from her deadly rivals in a Tokyo night club. Yet, Iris decided to remove herself from the fight after the situation became far less honorable than Iris was comfortable with--proving to Maly her worth in the process...

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

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ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 2

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MY NAME IS IRIS. I AM PART OF AN ELITE SISTERHOOD OF HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONAL BODYGUARDS CALLED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO I INTERVIEWED WITH MALY LIM, THE WOMAN BESIDE ME, IN HOPES OF FINDING AN EMPLOYER THAT I CAN FINALLY TRUST.

WHERE IS SHE, MALY?!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT--

--DO NOT DISHONOR ME WITH LIES, OR I WILL HAVE MY MEN CUT YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!

KLICK

KLICK

KAH-KLICK

AFTER AN UNORTHODOX INTERVIEW TURNED AMBUSH, I DISCOUNTED HER AS ANOTHER DUPlicitous AND POWER HUNGRY MOGUL. BUT MOMENTS AGO, SHE SOUGHT ME OUT AND MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR MY SERVICES.

MALY WAS RECENTLY SET UP BY HER MENTOR, HAN LI SHAO-- FOR REASONS THAT ARE PRESENTLY UNCLEAR TO ME. HOWEVER...

...SINCE SHAO AND HIS CADRE OF ARMED MERCENARIES HAVE JUST SURROUNDED US, I ASSUME WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

SHAO IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD. HIS REPUTATION DOESN'T JUST PRECEDE HIM, IT MAKES THE GROUND TREMBLE.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS THAT SHAO IS NOT SOMEONE YOU WANT AS AN ENEMY.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM BE DAMNED.




I DON'T LIKE GUNS POINTED IN MY FACE!

IRIS, NO!



YOUR STANDING AMONG
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS IS
WITHOUT PEER.

THEN YOU
SHOULD HAVE NO
PROBLEM INSTRUCTING
THEM TO STAND DOWN,
MISTER SHAO... UNLESS
YOU THINK THEY CAN
FIRE BEFORE I OPEN
YOUR THROAT.




PLEASE,
SHAO HAS A KNACK
FOR CHEAP THEATRICS...
THIS STANDOFF ISN'T
NECESSARY.



WATCH
YOUR TONGUE,
MALY!

WATCH
YOURS WHEN YOU
ADDRESS HER.



I'M NOT
SOMEONE YOU
WANT AS AN ENEMY,
IRIS. I'M SURE YOUR
FIRST EMPLOYER
CHING, TAUGHT
YOU AS MUCH.

INVOKE HIS
NAME AGAIN AND
YOU WILL MAKE YOUR
NEXT ENEMY IN THE
AFTERWORLD.



THEN
WE UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER.



STAND DOWN.



MALY... TELL ME
YOU HAVEN'T KEPT
THIS FROM ME ALL
THESE YEARS.

AFTER
ALL I HAVE
DONE FOR YOU...
ALL I HAVE
GIVEN YOU.

WHAT CHOICE
DID YOU LEAVE
ME, HAN LI?



HONOR.
YOU SHOULD
HAVE CHOSEN
HONOR! THIS IS
HOW YOU REPAY
ME FOR THE
LIFE I GAVE
YOU?

GAVE ME?!
NO... THIS WAS
PAYMENT FOR THE
LIFE YOU WANTED
TO TAKE.



PAYMENT
YOU NEVER
MADE!

WHERE IS
SHE?! WHERE IS MY
DAUGHTER?!



I DON'T
EVEN KNOW HER
NAME. OR I WOULD
BE HONOR-BOUND
TO TELL YOU.



LIES!
I KNOW SHE
IS SOMEWHERE IN
THERE... IN YOUR
SCHOOL!



SHE MAY
BE... BUT FOR HER
OWN SAFETY, I DO
NOT KNOW WHO
SHE IS.

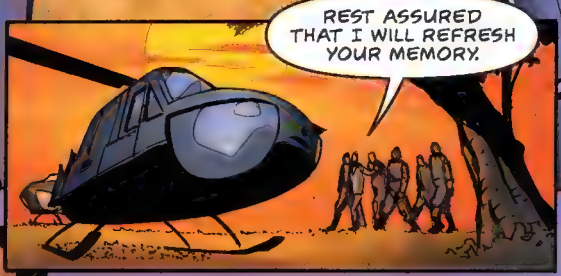
THEN
I WILL GO IN
THERE AND
FIND HER!



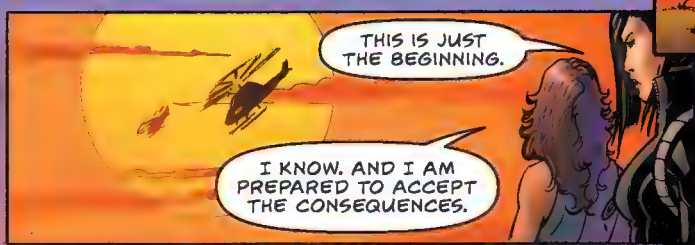
YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY.

BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THEY ARE GOING TO LET YOU FLY OUT OF HERE WITH ONE OF THEIR SISTERS.

YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE, MALY.



REST ASSURED THAT I WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.



THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

I KNOW. AND I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.



WHY?



BECAUSE
SHE'S MY
DAUGHTER,
TOO.

"MY HISTORY WITH
HAN LI SHAO GOES BACK
TWENTY YEARS. BORN FROM
NOBILITY, HE WAS A YOUNG AND
FEARLESS BUSINESSMAN WHO
CARRIED THE AURA OF
GREATNESS.

"I BEGAN WORKING FOR
HIM RIGHT OUT OF SCHOOL. A
YOUNG, WIDE-EYED TEEN WITH
SO MUCH TO LEARN IN LIFE.

"I TRAVELED THE WORLD
WITH SHAO AND SAW SO MANY
THINGS. I SAW A MAN BUILD A
GLOBAL EMPIRE AND BECOME
ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL
MEN IN THE WORLD.

"IT WAS INTOXICATING.

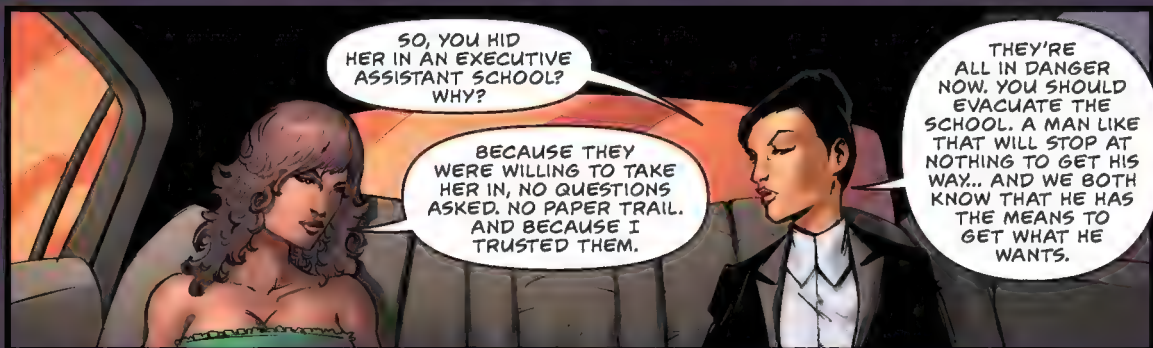
"NATURALLY, WE FELL
FOR EACH OTHER. BUT IT
WAS NO PASSING FLING, IT
WAS LOVE THAT ENDURED
FOR YEARS.

"BUT BECAUSE OF HIS
NOBILITY AND MY COMMON
LINEAGE, MARRIAGE WAS
NOT POSSIBLE.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP
WAS A TICKING CLOCK.
AND EVEN AFTER HE
MARRIED A WOMAN OF
HIS PEDIGREE, WE
HELD ON.

"THE CLOCK
STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON THE
DAY I DISCOVERED I
WAS PREGNANT.

"HIS WIFE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO ONLY
DAUGHTERS... IF IT HAD BEEN A BOY, PERHAPS
THE CHILD WOULD'VE HAD A CHANCE... BUT IT
WAS A GIRL, AND AN ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER
WAS WORTHLESS TO HIM."



SO, YOU HID HER IN AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SCHOOL? WHY?

BECAUSE THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE HER IN, NO QUESTIONS ASKED. NO PAPER TRAIL. AND BECAUSE I TRUSTED THEM.

THEY'RE ALL IN DANGER NOW. YOU SHOULD EVACUATE THE SCHOOL. A MAN LIKE THAT WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET HIS WAY... AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT HE HAS THE MEANS TO GET WHAT HE WANTS.

SHAO IS MY MASTER. HE MADE MY SUCCESSES POSSIBLE... I'M HONOR BOUND NOT TO INTERFERE. IT'S PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT I STAYED AWAY ALL THESE YEARS.



SO... YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HER?!

NO.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GO THROUGH LIFE NOT KNOWING WHO YOUR PARENTS ARE? ALWAYS WONDERING IF ANYONE EVER LOVED YOU?!

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT YOU, THE LESS I WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU. WHY WOULD YOU WISH THIS UPON YOUR DAUGHTER?!



IS SHE SAFE?

IT'S WHERE I KNEW I COULD KEEP HER SAFE.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS JOB. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT NOW... BUT WILL YOU AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU SAY NO?



IRIS' WATERFRONT CONDO.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CALLED.

THERE'S A CLEAN GLASS ON THE TABLE, AGENT.

THIS IS ABOUT MALY LIM, ISN'T IT? DID YOU ACCEPT THE JOB?

DOUBLE-DEALING IS MY BUSINESS, SO I MAY NOT BE THE ONE TO ASK... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SUCH A JOB EXISTS, IRIS. TRUST? YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT EVERYONE HAS A PRICE.

NOT YET.

WHICH MEANS THERE ARE MAJOR RED FLAGS.

SO WHY ARE YOU EVEN DEBATING THIS? YOU CAN HAVE VIRTUALLY ANY ASSISTANT JOB YOU WANT.

THE GIRL. IF I DO NOTHING, THEN SHE WILL DIE.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB OR A CAUSE?

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE I CAN BELIEVE IN. OR AT LEAST SOME THING. IS THAT TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR?

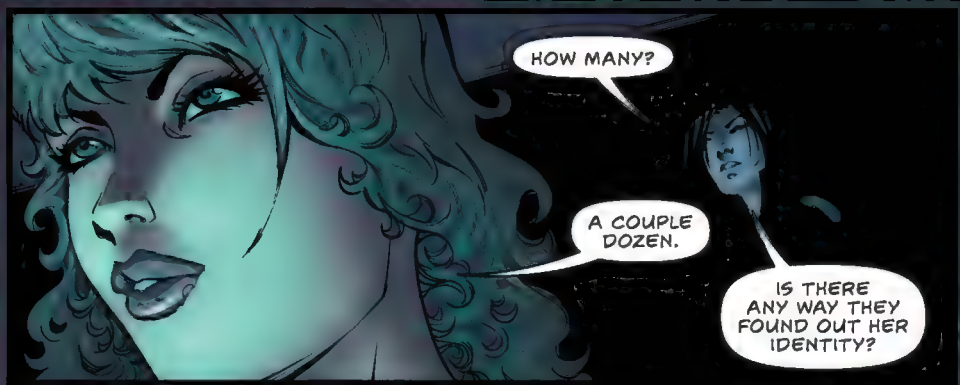
I DON'T. AND IF THIS IS TRUE FOR ME, THEN I SHOULDN'T EXPECT LESS.

IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE MALY ISN'T THAT PERSON. BUT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR A CAUSE, CONSIDER THIS-- THAT GIRL IS YOU, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO... AND HER LIFE IS IN DANGER.



THE SHAO-ANG
GREEN TOWER.

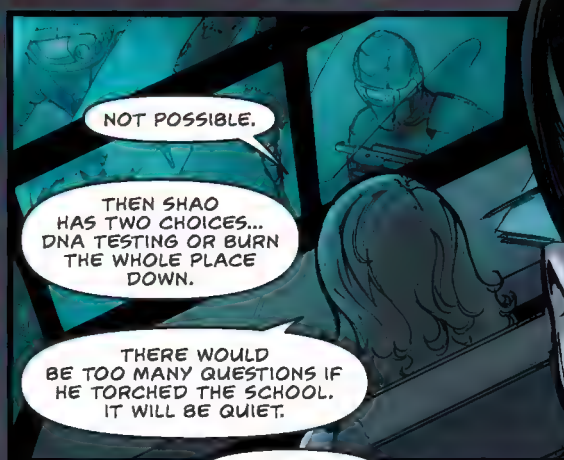
THEY'RE
ALREADY ON
THEIR WAY.



HOW MANY?

A COUPLE
DOZEN.

IS THERE
ANY WAY THEY
FOUND OUT HER
IDENTITY?

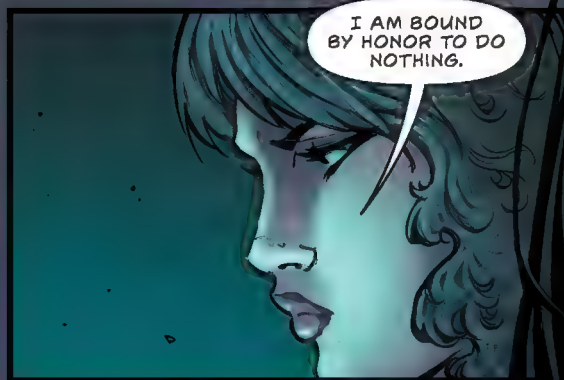


NOT POSSIBLE.

THEN SHAO
HAS TWO CHOICES...
DNA TESTING OR BURN
THE WHOLE PLACE
DOWN.

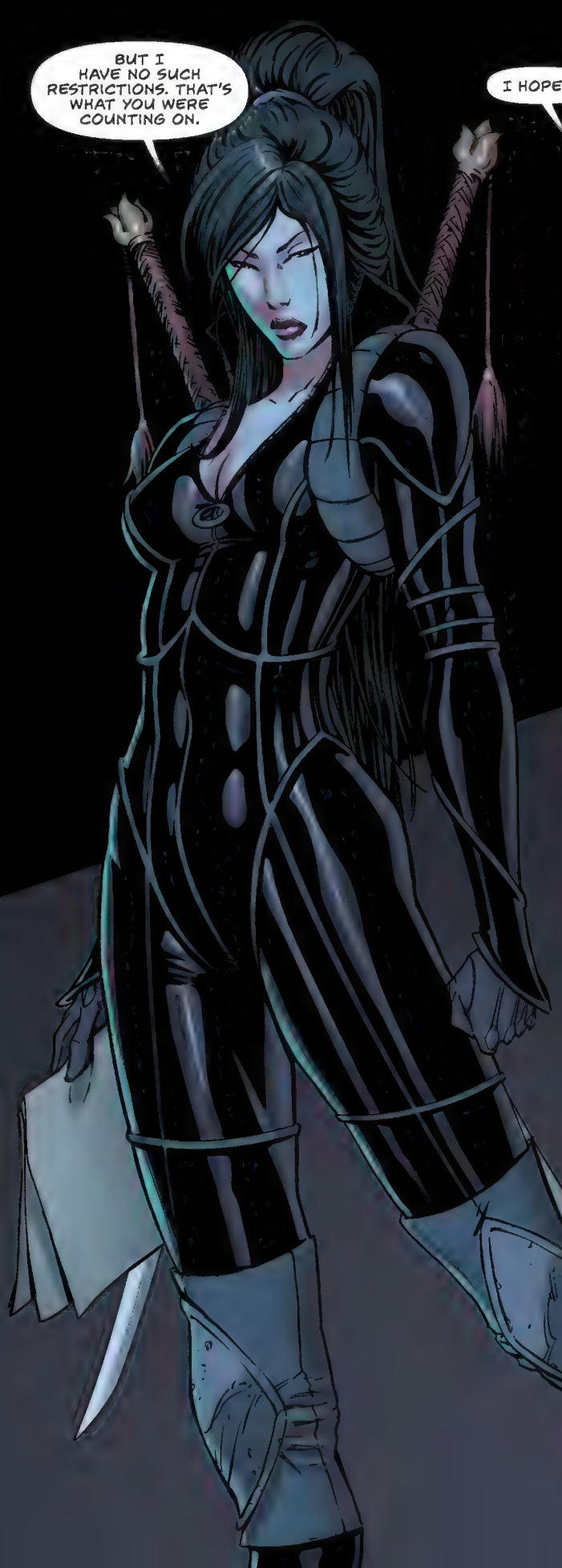
THERE WOULD
BE TOO MANY QUESTIONS IF
HE TORCHED THE SCHOOL.
IT WILL BE QUIET.

AND WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO?



I AM BOUND
BY HONOR TO DO
NOTHING.





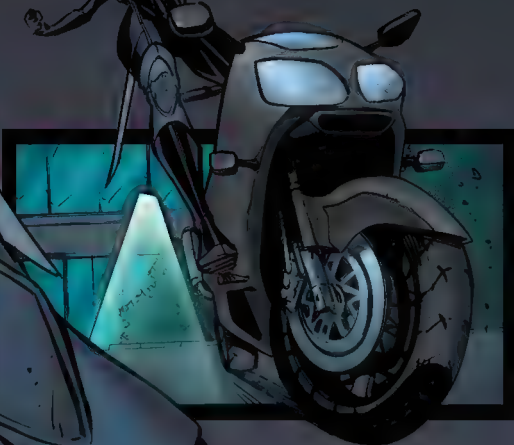
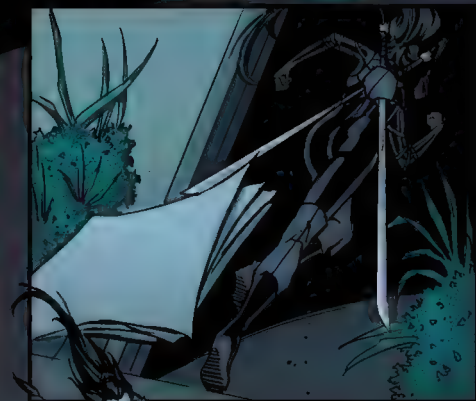
BUT I
HAVE NO SUCH
RESTRICTIONS. THAT'S
WHAT YOU WERE
COUNTING ON.

I HOPED.

IF YOU DON'T
KNOW HER NAME, HOW
AM I SUPPOSED TO
FIND HER?

ALL I HAVE
ARE PICTURES...
THIS ONE IS A FEW
YEARS OLD.

I'LL
GET HER TO
SAFETY.

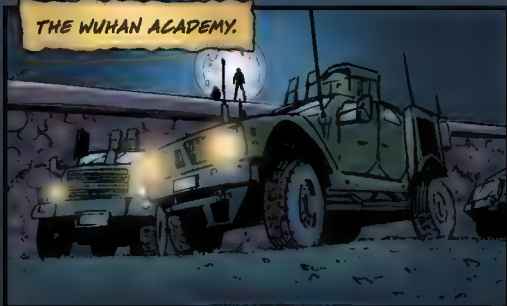


MALY PLANNED TO PLAY ON
MY SYMPATHIES ALL ALONG.
SHE ASSUMED I WOULD SEE
MYSELF IN THAT GIRL...

SHE ASSUMED THAT I WOULD
TAKE UP HER CAUSE TO SAVE AN
INNOCENT YOUNG GIRL.



THE WUHAN ACADEMY.



SHE WAS RIGHT.



I HATE THESE
MANIPULATIONS.

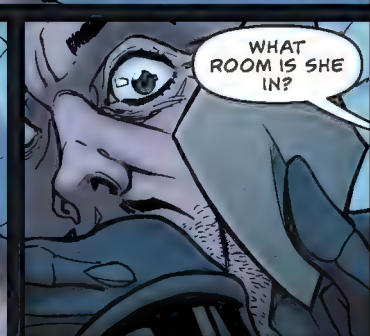
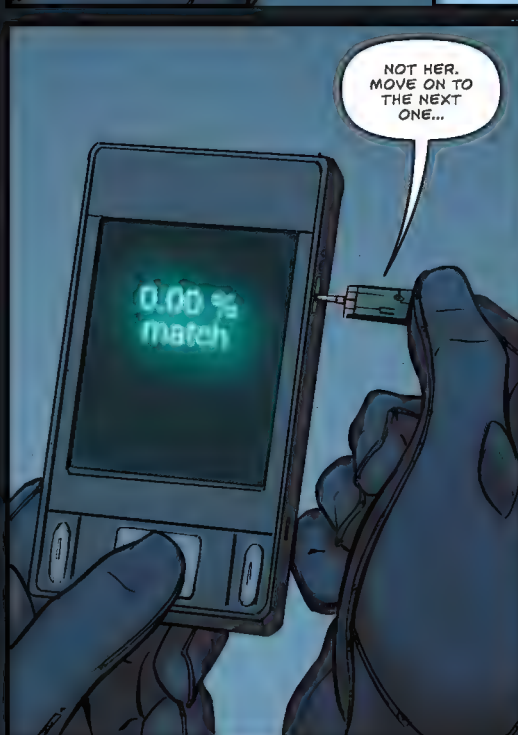


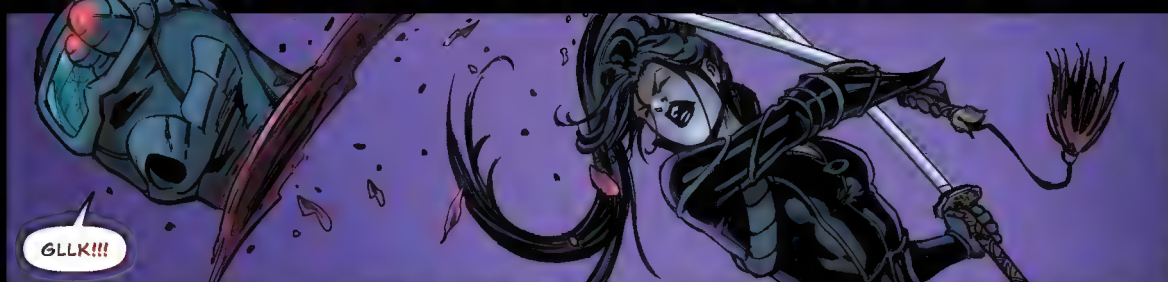
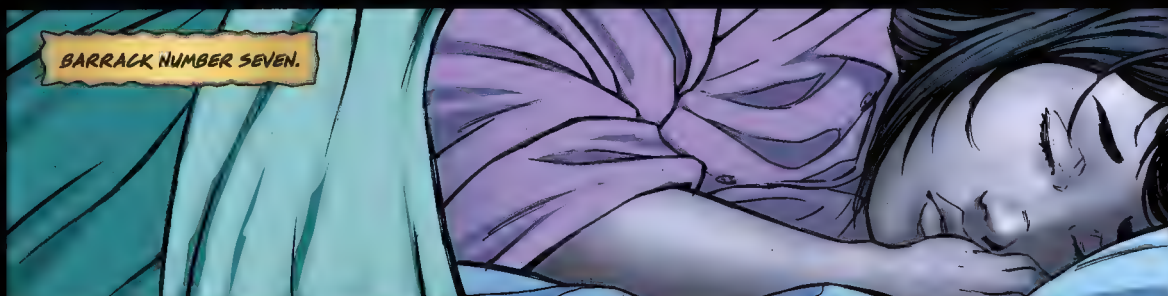
I WILL DEAL WITH MALY'S
DECEIT LATER...



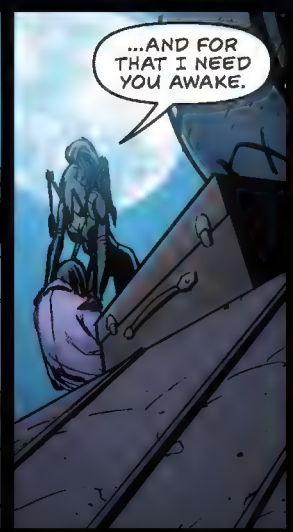
BUSINESS FIRST.







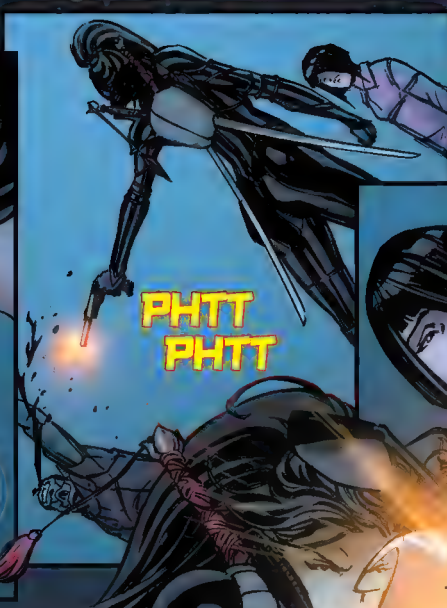






I...
I KNOW YOU...
YOU'RE--

--LISTEN
TO ME. THERE
ARE MEN HERE
TO KILL YOU. WE
NEED TO--



PHTT
PHTT



WE
NEED TO
GO!

WHY ME?!

LATER.
RIGHT NOW
I NEED YOU
TO...

...HOLD ON!!!





TING
TING
TING

TING
TING
TING

KAH-THUNK

POP
POP
POP

THAT WAS
CLOSE!

"I'M SORRY, MISTER
SHAO. THERE IS NO
EXCUSE FOR THEIR
FAILURE..."

THE HOME OF
HAN LI SHAO.

THEY WERE A
TOP-FLIGHT TEAM OF
MY CHOOSING. I ACCEPT
FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THIS.

YOUR MISTAKE
WAS NOT ACCOUNTING
FOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
IRIS. HER PROWESS DWARFS
EVEN HER LEGENDARY
REPUTATION.

WE'VE
ALREADY PUT A
BOUNTY ON HER AS
YOU REQUESTED.
TEN MILLION
DOLLARS.

WHEN SHE
IS FOUND, THEY
WILL FIND YOUR
DAUGHTER.

EXCUSE
ME, SIR. I
HAVE YOUR
GUEST...

...EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT:
SNAPDRAGON.

MISTER SHAO,
I'LL TAKE YOUR
TEN MILLION.

TO BE
CONTINUED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #3

ALL NEW
**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT



**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
THRILLING
ISSUE!**

#3

**10
FOR
10**



WRITTEN BY:
BRIAN BUCCELLATO
(THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

PENCILS BY:
PASQUALE QUALANO
(IDOLIZED, SOULFIRE: GRACE)

COLORS BY:
JOHN STARR
(LEGEND OF THE SHADOW CLAN, FATHOM, SOULFIRE)

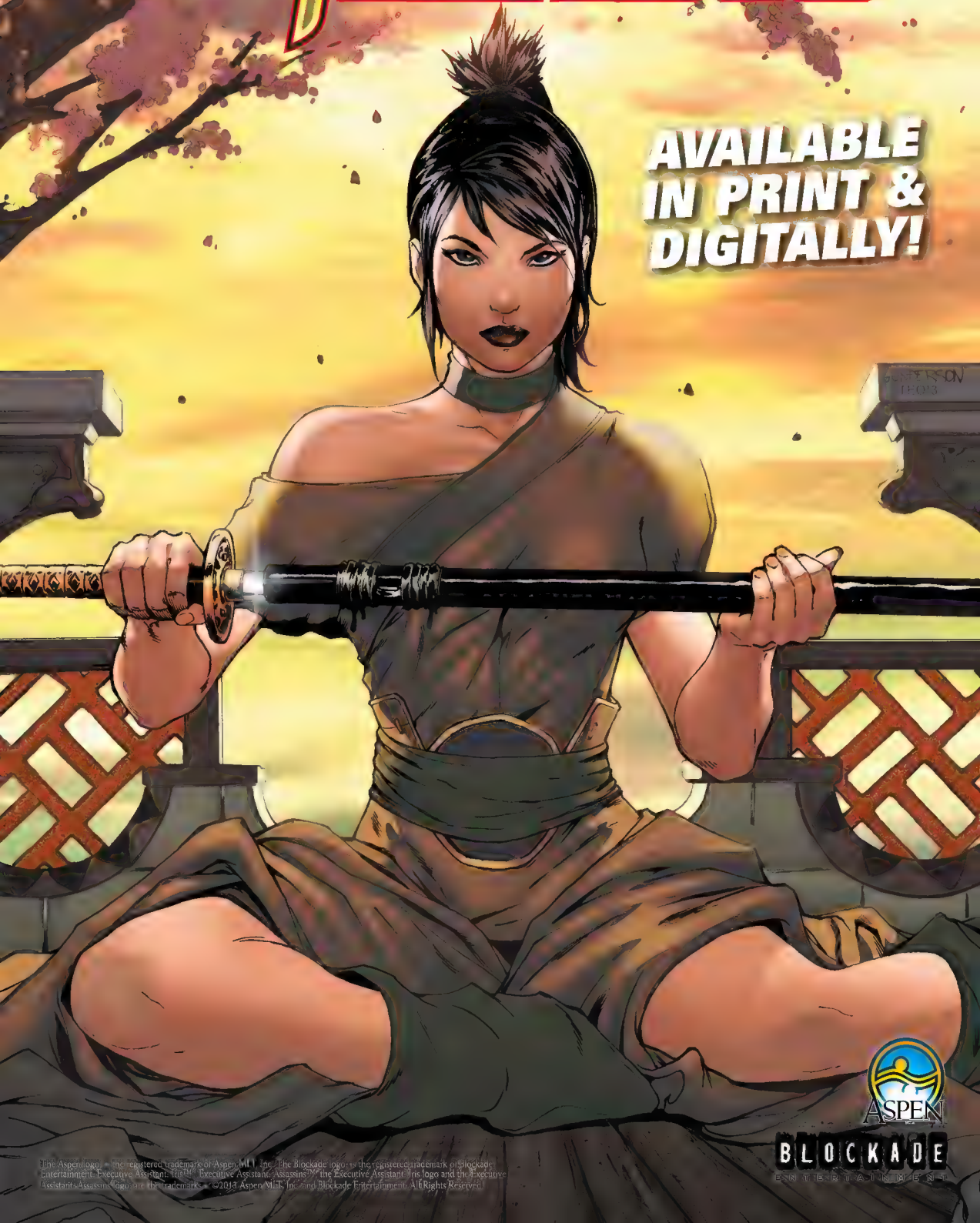
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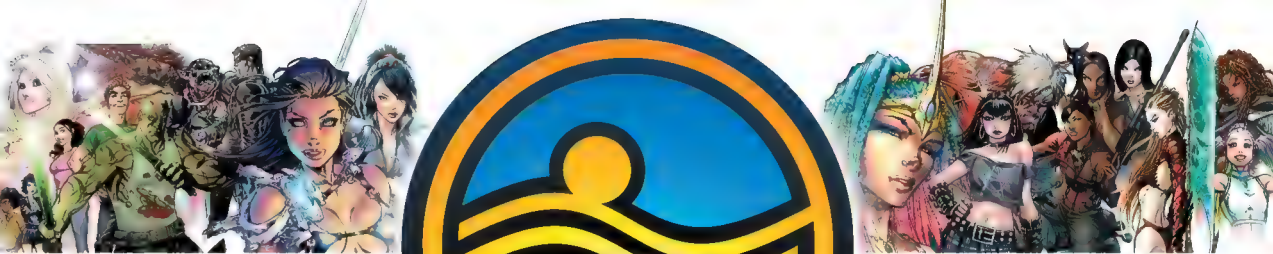
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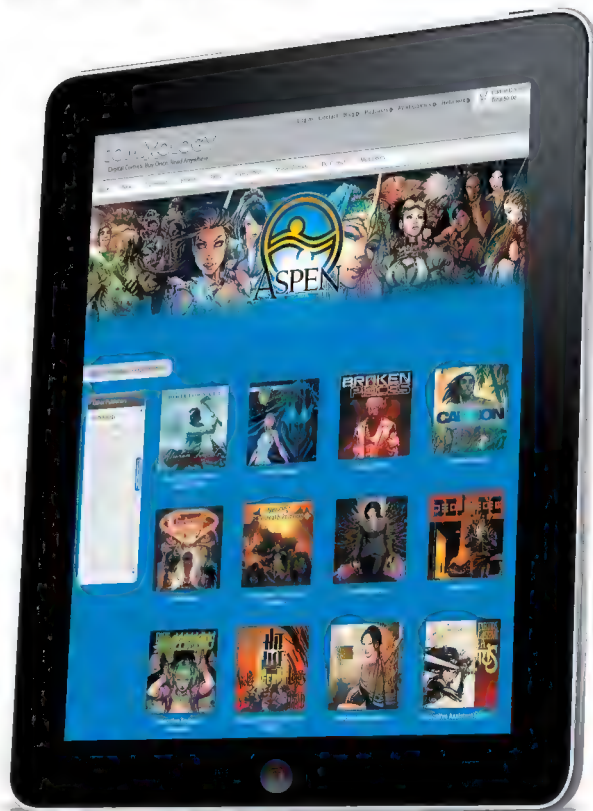
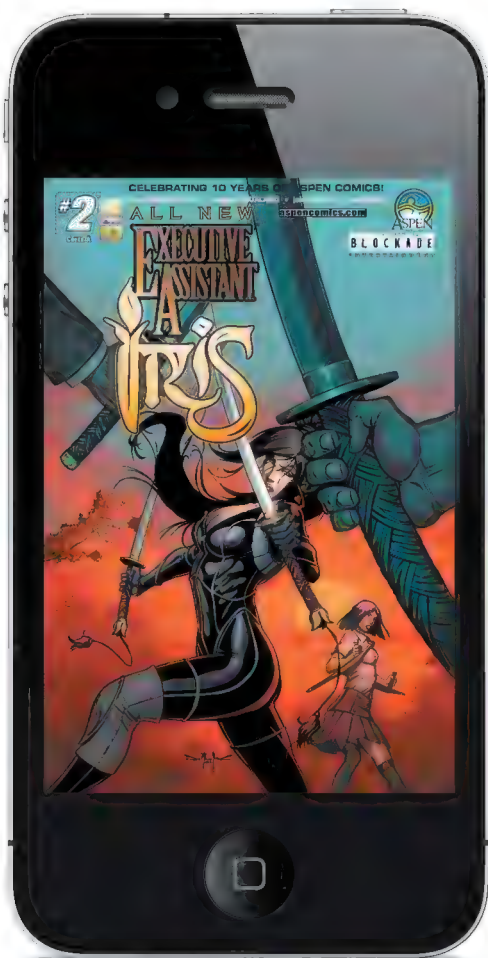


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HONOR BOUND

PART 3 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

story

PASQUALE QUALANO

pencils

MARK ROSLAN
& JOHN ERCEK

digital inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

The story so far...

Following a tense ambush-turned-standoff between Maly Ang and Han Li Shao, Iris discovered a tragic past occurred between the two, including a daughter she hid from him within an EA Academy. Iris was able to track down and retrieve the young EA before Shao's men could capture her, but now he has contracted the services of Iris' latest rival...the confident--and deadly--Snapdragon to get the job done at all costs.

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

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ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 3

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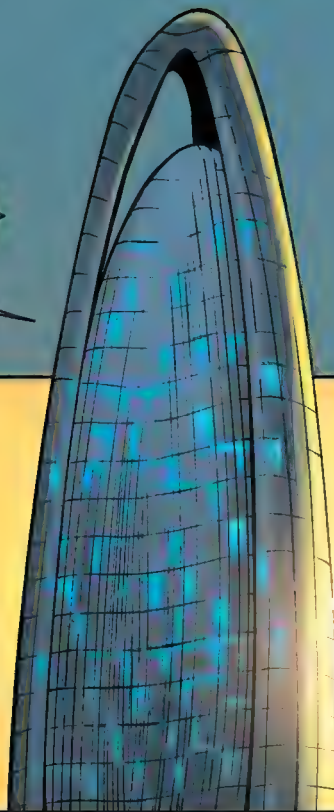
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THE SHAO-ANG
GREEN TOWER.
WUHAN, CHINA.

WHERE IS
MY DAUGHTER,
MALY?!



I DON'T
KNOW, SHAO.
I DID NOT RAID
THE WUHAN
SCHOOL.

NO, YOU SENT
YOUR EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT TO KIDNAP
HER, WHEN DUTY DEMANDS
THAT YOU RETURN THIS
GIRL TO ME AT
ONCE!



I DON'T NEED
YOU TO TELL ME
MY RESPONSIBILITIES.
I AM WELL AWARE OF MY
DEBTS TO YOU. HOWEVER,
IRIS IS NOT UNDER
MY EMPLOY.

WHATEVER
SHE HAS DONE, SHE
HAS DONE OF HER
OWN ACCORD.



BZZZZZZZZZZT
BZZZZZZZZZZT

I AM NO
FOOL, MALY. THERE'S
NO LIE YOU CAN TELL...
NO SUBTERFUGE THAT I
WILL NOT SEE THROUGH.
I'VE KNOWN YOU
TOO LONG.

THEN YOU
KNOW THAT
I WOULD NEVER
OPENLY DEFY
YOUR WISHES.

NO. INSTEAD,
YOU'VE MADE IRIS
AN UNWITTING PAWN
IN YOUR GAMES.



"YOU HAVE SENTENCED HER TO DEATH."

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE IRIS. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL. YOU'RE AN AMAZING FIGHTER AND SO SO PRETTY. YOU'RE A LEGEND!

I AM NO LEGEND.

WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE, IT MUST BE SERIOUS IF YOU'RE INVOLVED.

SOOOOOO... WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN TELL YOU, CHERRY, EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING. SOMETHING DANGEROUS THAT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AND THAT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER.

SOMETHING INVOLVING MY PARENTS?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

NOTHING. BUT YOUR REACTION TELLS ME THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEM.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

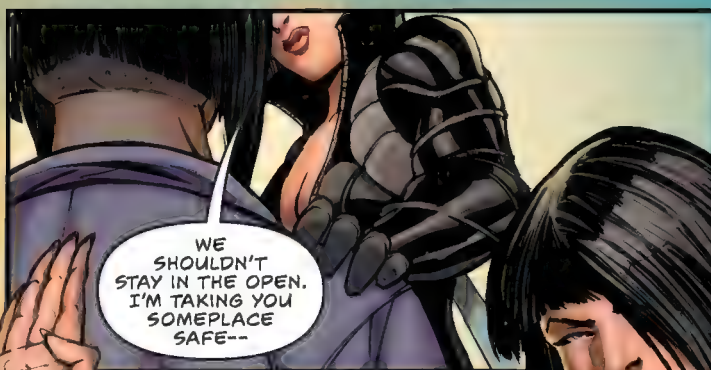
YES, YOU DID! NOT IN SO MANY WORDS, BUT YOU DID.

LISTEN, THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN MY HOME SINCE I WAS BORN. I HAVE NO MEMORY OF MY PARENTS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE?

I DO.

THEN WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT WANT TO HURT YOU... AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN.



WE
SHOULDN'T
STAY IN THE OPEN.
I'M TAKING YOU
SOMEPLACE
SAFE--

I'M NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
UNTIL YOU TELL ME
WHAT'S GOING
ON.

PLEASE,
LITTLE ONE...
DON'T MAKE ME
DO THIS THE
HARD WAY.



DON'T
CALL ME
LITTLE!



THE
HARD WAY,
THEN.



HAI!!!!!!

YOUR
TECHNIQUE IS
GOOD.

BUT
YOUR EMOTIONS
MAKE YOU HASTY,
LITTLE ONE.

SPLOOSH

DID
YOU REALLY
EXPECT TO DEFEAT
A LEGEND WITH
THAT?

GET
OUT OF
THE WATER.
IT'S TIME
TO GO.

PLAY TIME
IS OVER,
CHERRY.
WE NEED
TO--?!

SHIT.
WHERE'D
SHE GO?

SPLUNK



WITH OUR SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY, WE'VE FOUND IRIS' MOTORCYCLE AND NARROWED HER LOCATION DOWN TO A THREE-MILE RADIUS.

OUR NETWORK IS ON ALERT AND A TEAM IS EN ROUTE TO THE HOT ZONE. WE'LL HAVE HER WITHIN THE HOUR.



I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ME THAT WE FIND THIS GIRL, AND THAT IT IS DONE *QUIETLY* EXPLAINING AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD TO MY WIFE IS AN INCONVENIENCE I DO NOT WANT.



UNDERSTOOD. WE WILL DO IT QUIETLY.

GOOD.



UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN IRIS BRING THE CHILD TO ME. I MUST NOT KNOW THEIR EXACT WHEREABOUTS.

SHAO WILL OVERTURN EVERY STONE IN WUHAN, LOOKING FOR THEM... AND IF YOU CAN'T PROTECT HER, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IRIS CAN?



LONG ENOUGH. WE MUST GET HER OUT OF WUHAN.

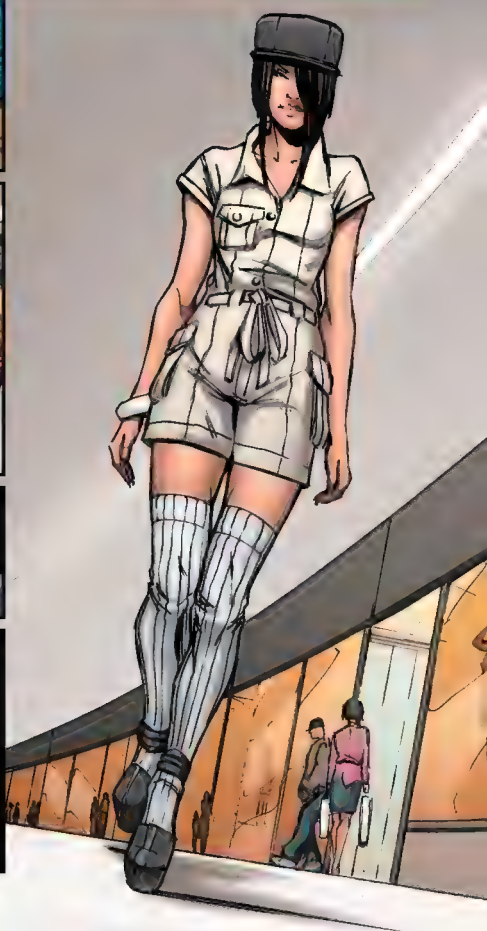
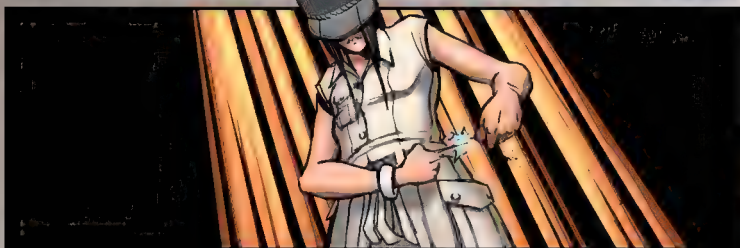
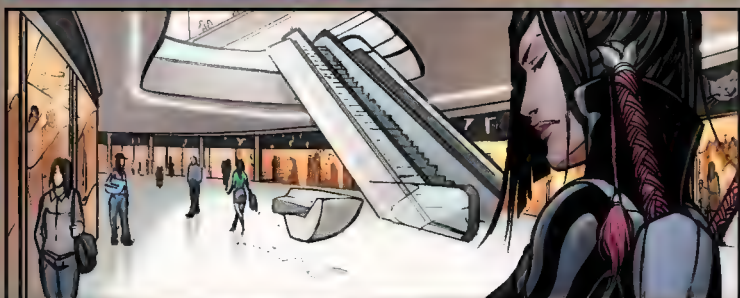
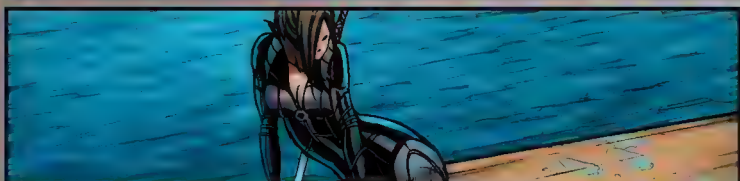
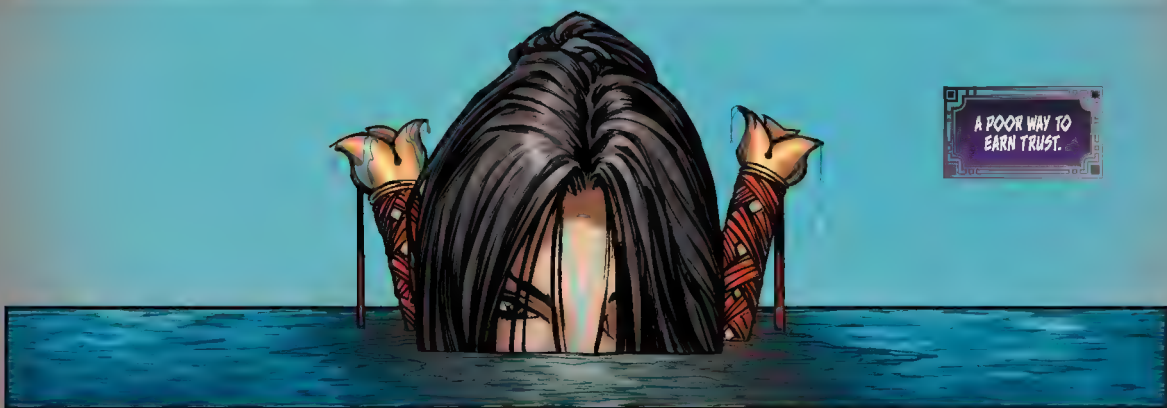
CONTACT **SAMNANG** AND TELL HIM I NEED A PACKAGE DELIVERED. I WON'T SPEAK WITH THEM DIRECTLY AND HE IS NOT TO KNOW THE TRUE VALUE OF THE CARGO. THEY CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH IRIS FROM THIS PHONE ONLY.

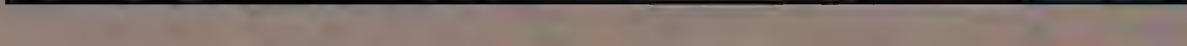
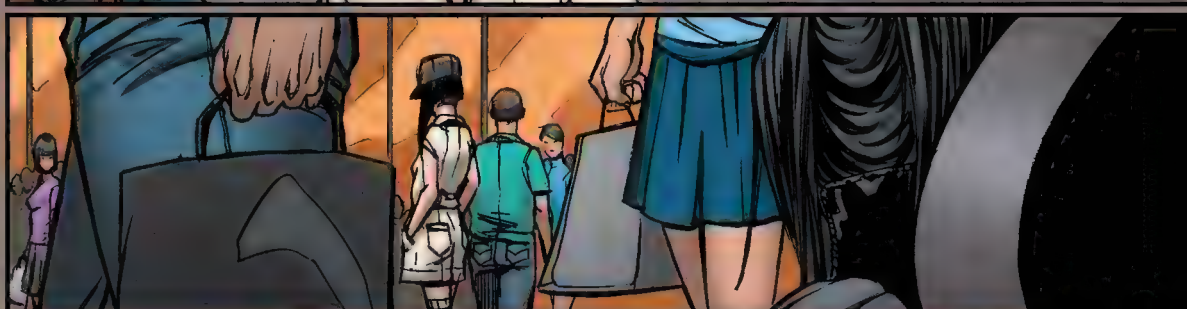
AND AFTER DELIVERY, HAVE THEM MAKE CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS.

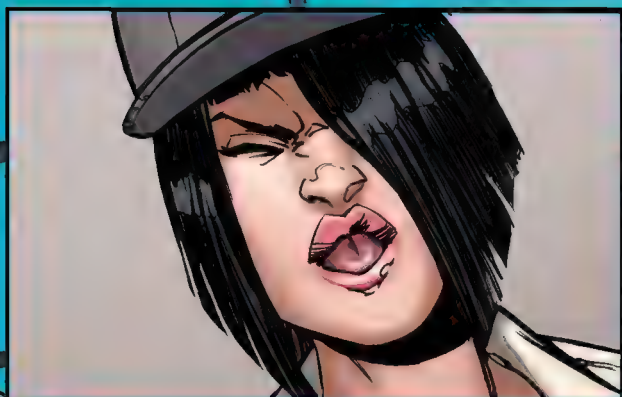


I KNOW THE **CAMBODIAN TRIAD** OPERATES OUTSIDE OF SHAO'S NETWORK... BUT CAN YOU TRUST THEM?

I TRUST THAT **SAMNANG** WILL ACCEPT MY GENEROUS COMPENSATION.







SNAPDRAGON!
AND
YOU BROUGHT
FRIENDS THIS
TIME.

SMALL
WORLD,
IRIS.

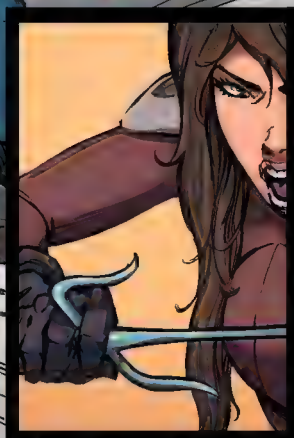
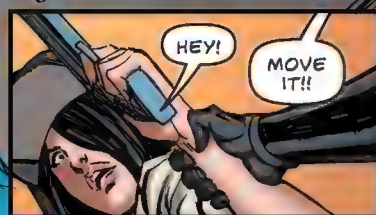


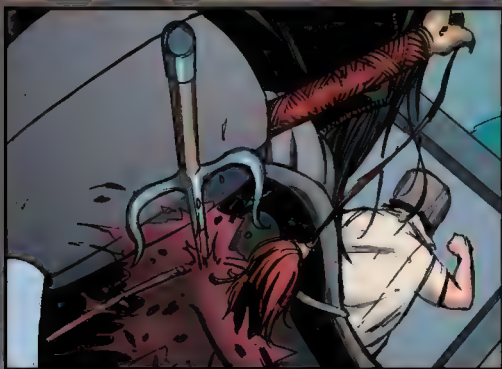
I TOLD
YOU NOT TO
CALL ME THAT.
I'M GOING TO
ENJOY MAKING
YOU PAY.

I GOT
THE LATEX
B**CH. YOU
FOUR-- GET
THE GIRL.













WHUMP



DAMN.



"OH. MY. GOD..."



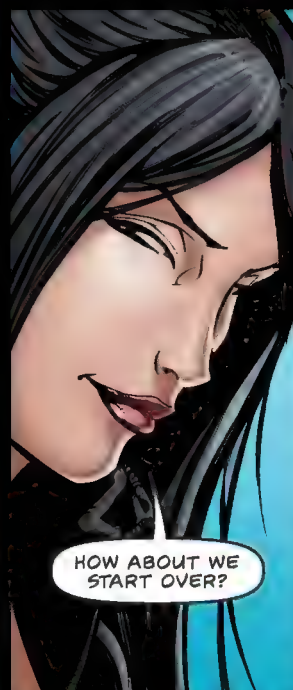
...I KNEW
YOU WERE GOOD, BUT
THAT WAS SO INCREDIBLE!
THE WAY YOU HANDLED
THEM SO EASILY--

EASILY?

AND HOW YOU
DOUBLED BACK
AND TOOK THEIR
HELICOPTER. ARE
YOU SERIOUS?!



I KNOW THEY
WERE TRYING TO
KILL US AND ALL...
BUT THAT WAS
AH-MAZING.



HOW ABOUT WE
START OVER?



ARE YOU
GOING TO TELL
ME ABOUT MY
PARENTS?

BZZZZZZZZT



NO. I'M
TAKING YOU
SOMEPLACE
SAFE.

115° 41-115° 05' N 29° 58 31' 22'



POUT ALL
YOU WANT, CHERRY...
IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO
TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS.
HOPEFULLY, IN TIME THEY WILL
TELL YOU... RIGHT NOW IT'S
BETTER THAT YOU
DON'T KNOW.

WHATEVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY
WANTED ME ANYWAY.
OR THEY WOULDN'T
HAVE GIVEN ME TO
THE SCHOOL.

NOT EVERYTHING IS AS EASY
AS THAT, CHERRY. SOMETIMES
CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE--

--YOU CAN
JUSTIFY IT HOWEVER
YOU WANT... THEY GAVE
ME UP. THAT'S ALL
THAT MATTERS.

STAY HERE.

THIS IS
THE HAND OFF,
THEN?

I GUESS
YOUR JOB IS
DONE.

MEANING?

NOTHING.



WE'RE
HERE FOR THE
PACKAGE.

CAMBODIAN
TRIAD?

I'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE.



I'M GOING
WITH YOU.
UNTIL I KNOW
SHE'S SAFE.




WE DON'T
WORK THAT
WAY.

I DO.

WE
DON'T.

VVVZZZZZTTTTT



THE BOUNTY
ON HER SAYS
DEAD OR ALIVE.
DEAD IT IS...

SAMNANG!
PLEASE,
DON'T!

I APPRECIATE THE
INITIATIVE IT TOOK FOR
YOU TO CONTACT US ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE. I ALLOWED YOU
TO COME BECAUSE WE ARE
GOING TO MAKE A GREAT
DEAL OF MONEY
TOGETHER...

...BUT DON'T
TELL ME WHAT TO
DO, *DRAGON*. NOT
EVER.

IRIS!!!!

I MEANT
NO DISRESPECT.
BUT WHEN IRIS DIES,
I WANT IT TO BE BY MY
HAND IN SINGLE COMBAT--
SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW
THAT I'M THE BEST
THERE IS.

PLEASE,
GRANT ME
THIS GIFT,
SAMNANG...

"...CONSIDERING
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO
DO FOR YOU."



"WE HAVE CHERRY.
SHE GOES TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER. THE
OPENING BID STARTS
AT \$50 MILLION."



TO BE
CONTINUED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #4



bruce BUGCELLATO • pasquale GUALANO • john STARR • josh REED

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COVER B



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Kylchitter



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COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU





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ALL NEW

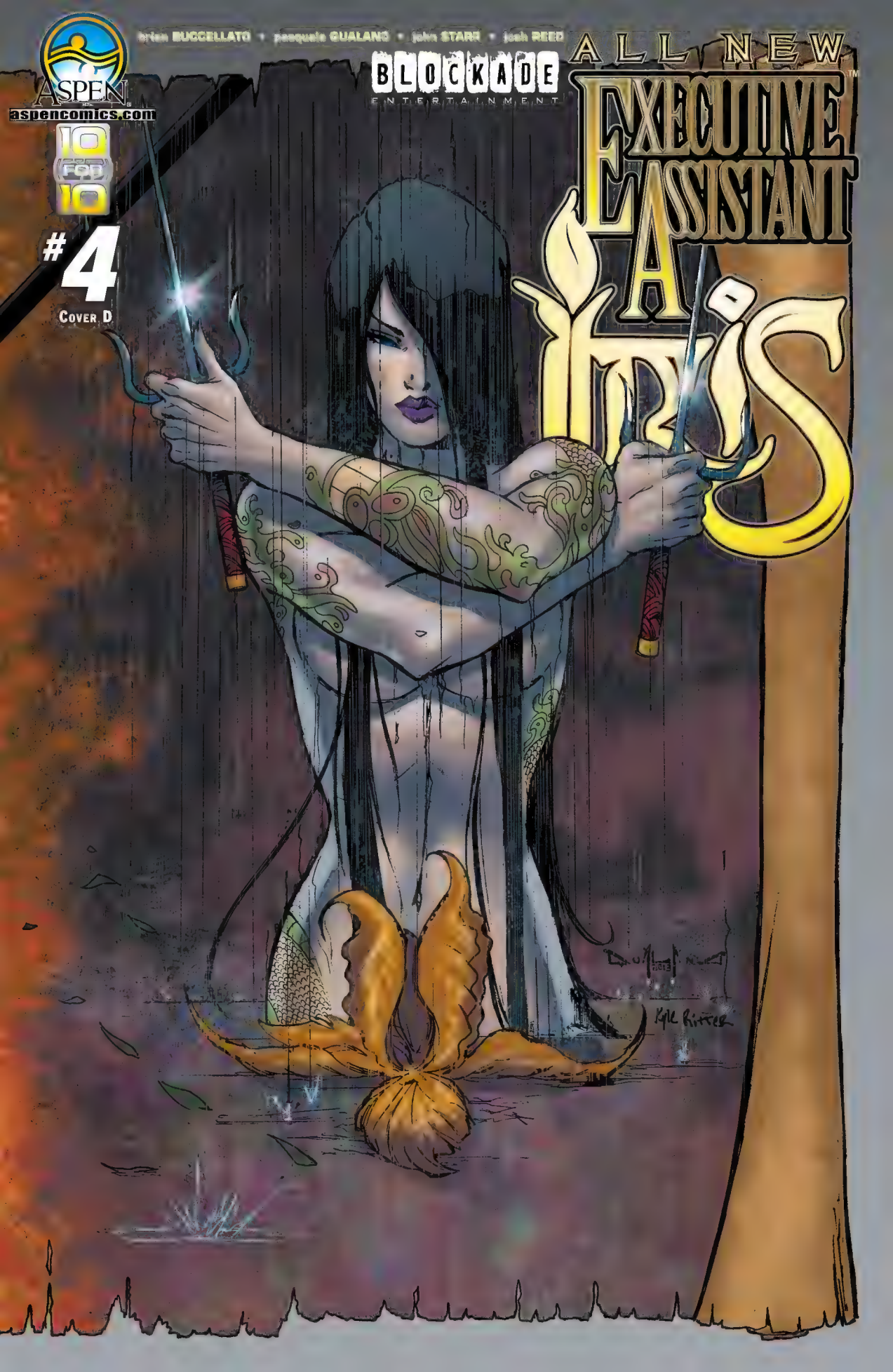
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Direct Edition
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John Starr

HONOR BOUND

PART 4 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

story

PASQUALE QUALANO

pencils

JOHN ERCEK

digital inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

The story so far...

Iris discovered that retrieving the Executive Assistant-in-training, Cherry, was only half the battle--as containing the young girl proved to be an even tougher challenge. Yet, the pair quickly realized they were a target, and fell victim to an ambush at the hands of Snapdragon and the Cambodian Triad. Now, the ownership of Cherry has been put on the market, with an opening bid of \$50 million.

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: D'BAMER DESIGN

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Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 4

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SHE'S
WAKING
UP...

SNAPDRAGON...
WHERE IS
CHERRY?

I'D SAY
YOU HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

I SEE.
SO, WHAT IS
THIS... YOU WANT
A SHOT AT THE
TITLE?

FOR AN
ASIAN, YOU KNOW
A LOT OF WESTERN
EXPRESSIONS.

ENOUGH
WITH THE CLEVER
QUIPS... GET ON
WITH IT.

HELLO
TO YOU,
TOO.

THIS IS
GOING TO BE
GOOD.

I'M AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT BY TRADE. I MET SNAPDRAGON A WEEK AGO AT A JOB INTERVIEW. AFTER AN UNORTHODOX INTERVIEW PROCESS, I GOT THE CONTRACT.

IT SEEMS SHE TOOK THE SLIGHT PERSONALLY.

SHE ALSO MUST HAVE BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH THE CAMBODIAN TRIAD, WHO BETRAYED ME WHILE I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT THE LIFE OF A YOUNG EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT STUDENT NAMED CHERRY.

SHE COULD'VE KILLED ME WHILE MY BACK WAS TURNED.

INSTEAD, SHE BROUGHT ME HERE WITH THE INTENT OF DOING IT IN SINGLE COMBAT... IN FRONT OF OUR PEERS.

SHE MAY BE A DUPLICIOUS BITCH...

...BUT AT LEAST SHE'S OFFERING AN HONORABLE WARRIOR'S DEATH.

NOT FOR MYSELF...
FOR HER.

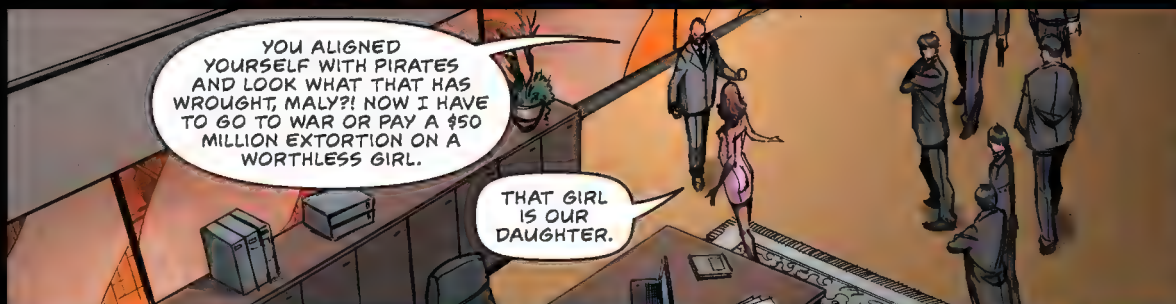
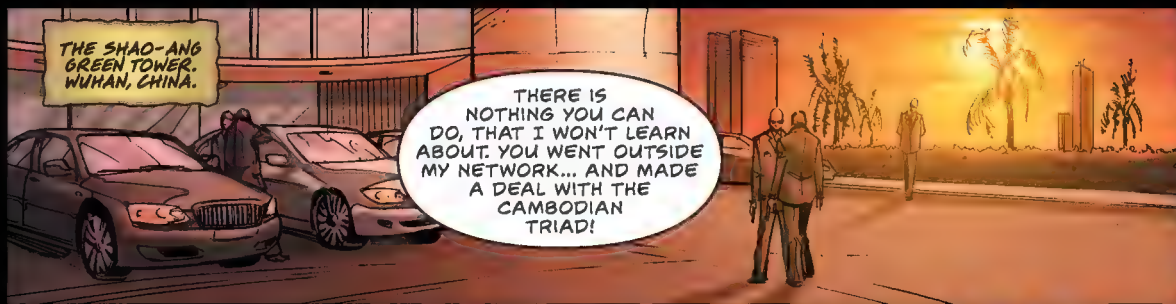




ANYONE
ELSE?

I DIDN'T
THINK SO.

\$HIT.
THAT WAS MY
SWORD.





THIS IS THE SECOND TIME WE MEET IN A STANDOFF. THERE WON'T BE A THIRD.

WE AGREE ON THAT POINT, MISTER SHAO.

IRIS!
IRIS, PLEASE...

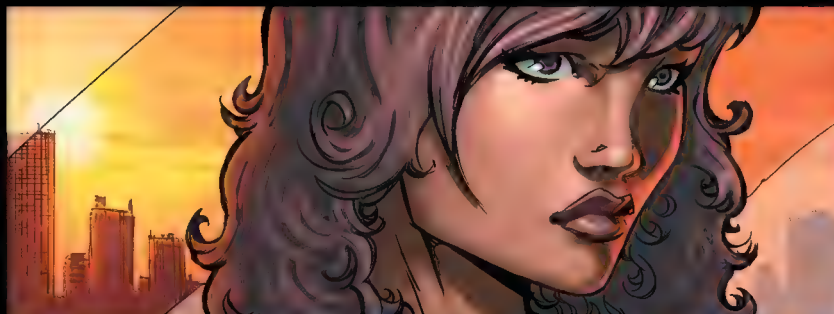
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OUTBID ME FOR THE GIRL, MALY.

SHAO'S GOING TO KILL HER. WE CAN'T LET HIM USE HIS WEALTH TO GET TO HER.

I'M HONOR BOUND--

--YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HONOR IS!

I DON'T CARE IF HE WAS YOUR FIRST OR ONLY LOVE... WHY DO YOU SUBMIT TO HIM? WHAT IS HIS HOLD ON YOU?



HONOR
IS NOTHING
WITHOUT SOMEONE
WORTH HONORING. YOU
HAVE A DAUGHTER... HER
ADULTEROUS FATHER
IS NOT WORTH
CHERRY'S
LIFE.

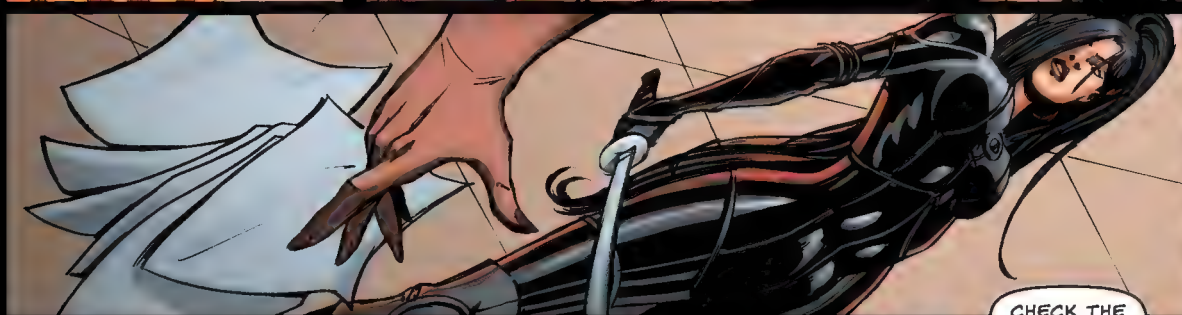
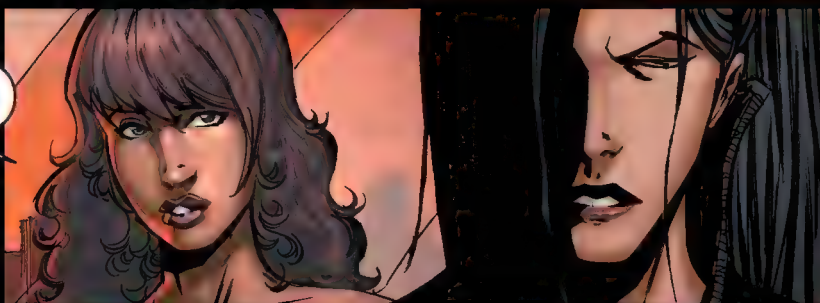
AND
YOU ARE
NOT WORTH MY
TIME. AT ANY
PRICE. I
QUIT.



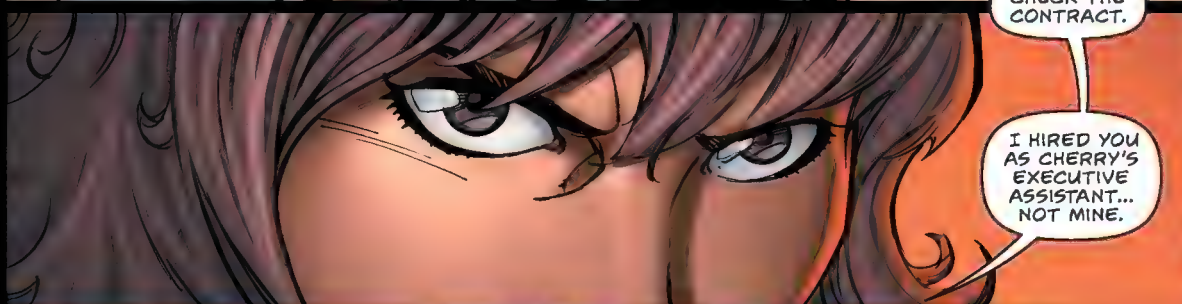
CHERRY'S
BLOOD IS
ON YOUR
HANDS.



WAIT. YOU
DON'T WORK
FOR ME.



CHECK THE
CONTRACT.



I HIRED YOU
AS CHERRY'S
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT...
NOT MINE.



WHAT
DOES YOUR
HONOR TELL
YOU, NOW?

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA.

MALY IS HIDING SOMETHING.
HER LOYALTY TO SHAO SHOULD NOT BE
STRONGER THAN BLOOD. HER CODE OF HONOR,
WHILE INTACT, DOESN'T PUT HER ABOVE
MANIPULATION AND DECEIT.

MALY PLANNED FOR
THIS ALL ALONG. KNOWING MY OWN
CODE OF ETHICS WON'T ALLOW ME
TO TURN MY BACK ON CHERRY.

I'VE BEEN
PLAYED FOR A
FOOL.

IT'S FINE. AFTER I
EXTRACT CHERRY FROM
THIS NONSENSE...

...MALY WILL GET
HER RECKONING.



THIS IS A REVOLTING
METHOD OF INFILTRATION.
HOWEVER, SINCE I DON'T KNOW
HOW MANY I'M FACING OR
WHERE CHERRY IS...



...IT WILL HAVE TO DO.

BECAUSE OF MALY'S
PREVIOUS AFFILIATIONS WITH THIS
CAMBODIAN CRIMINAL OUTFIT, I WAS
ABLE TO GET SOME INTELLIGENCE
THAT SHOULD PROVE USEFUL.

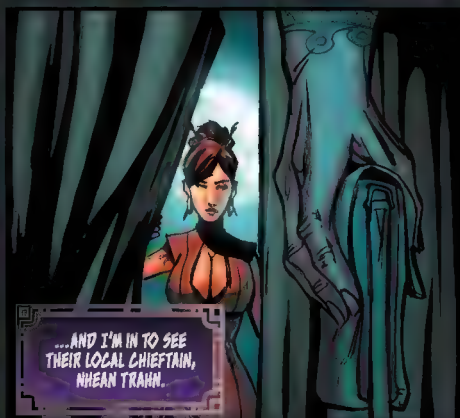


THEY'RE MORE
DISORGANIZED AND
RECKLESS THAN SOME
OF THE OTHER ASIAN
TRIADS...

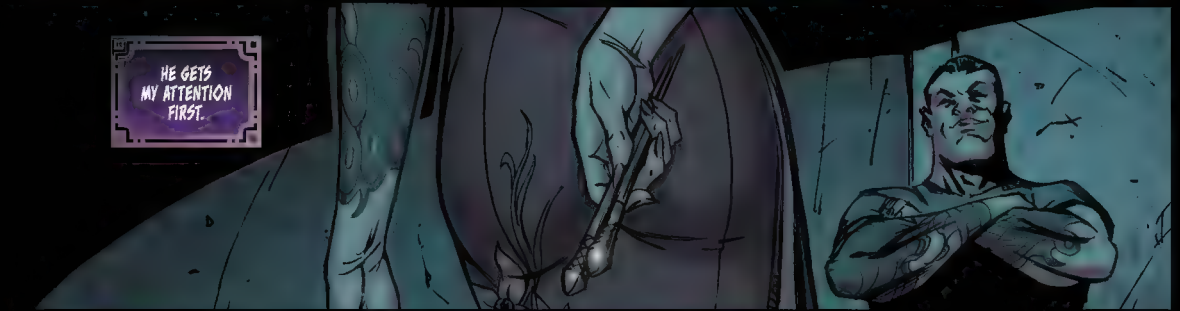
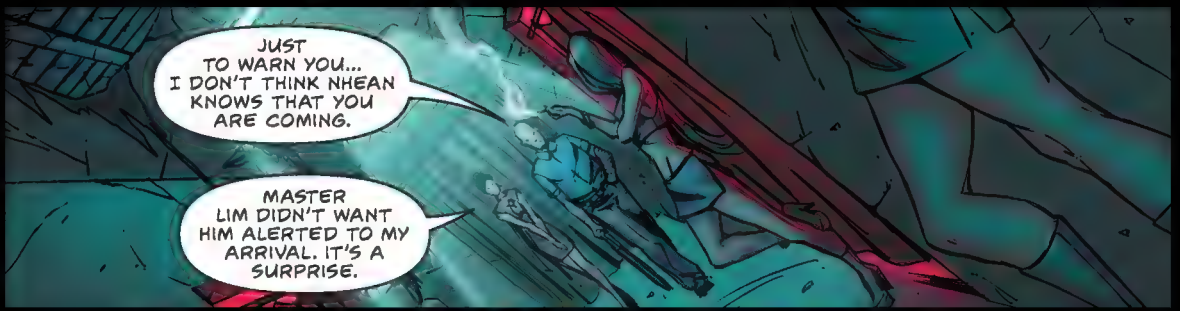


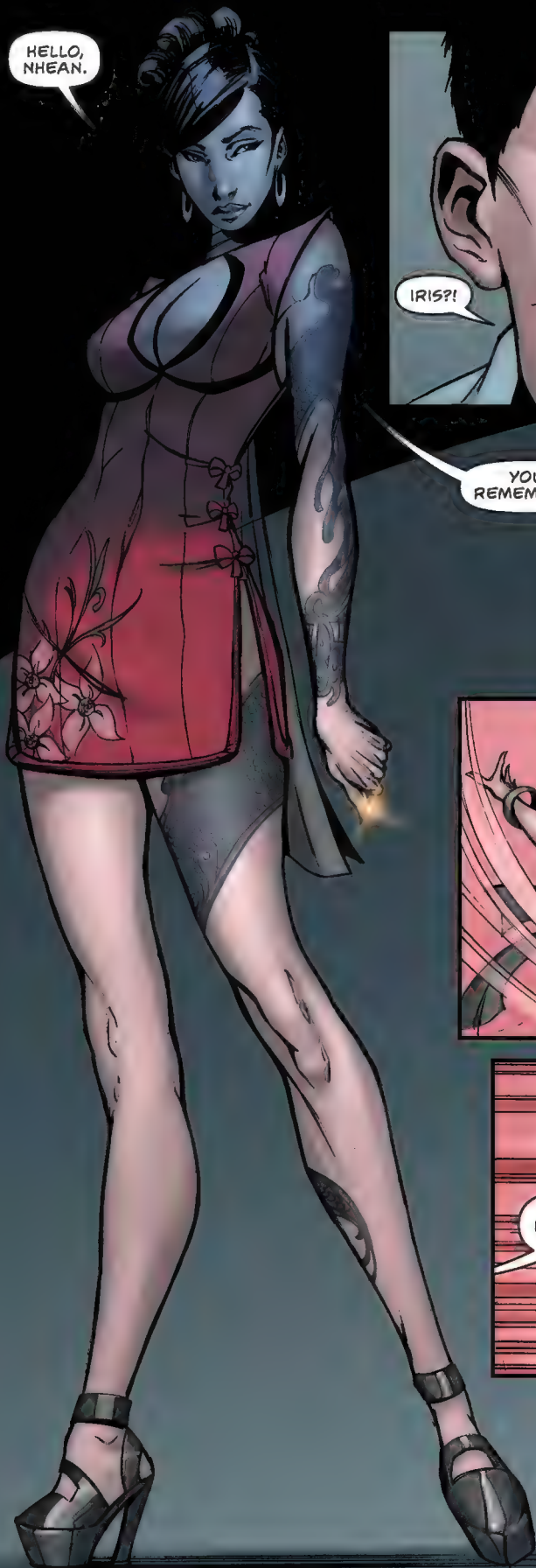
...SO IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MUCH TO
CONVINCE THESE LOW LEVEL THUGS.

I DROP THE NAME OF A HIGH-RANKING
MEMBER, OFFER A SEDUCTIVE SMILE...



...AND I'M IN TO SEE
THEIR LOCAL CHIEFTAIN,
NHEAN TRAHN.





HELLO,
NHEAN.



IRIS?!

YOU
REMEMBER.



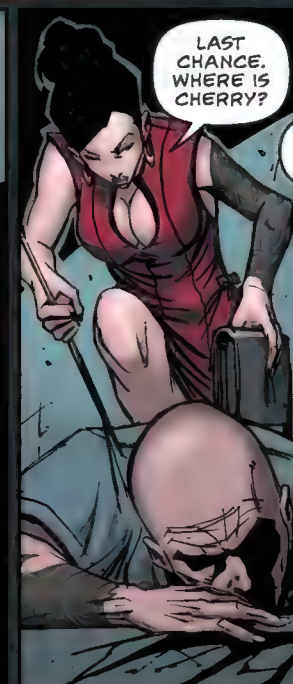
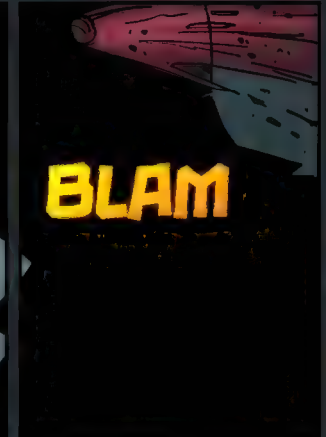
THUK



AHHHH!

I'LL BE
RIGHT WITH
YOU...

THK

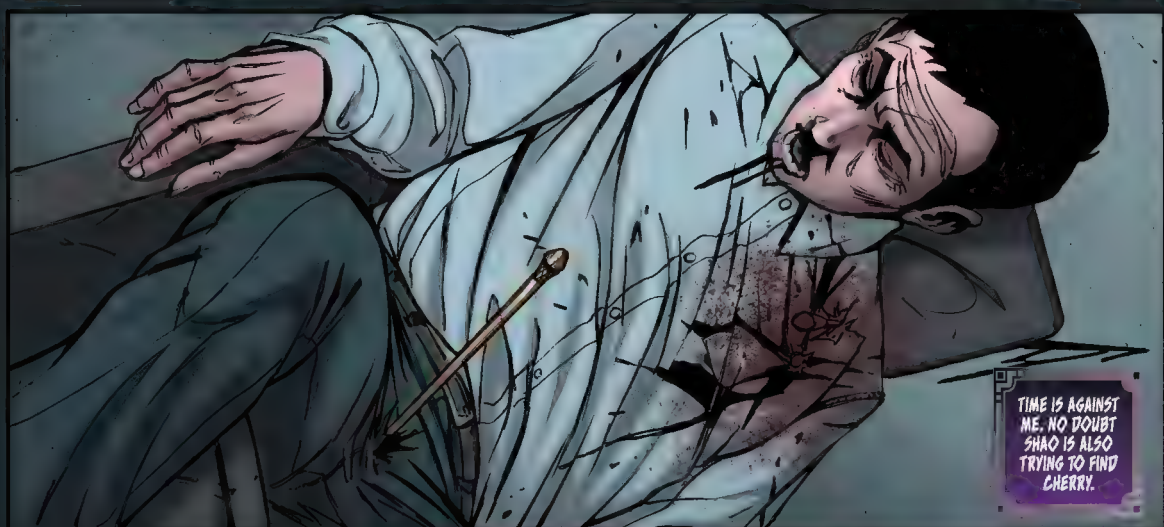




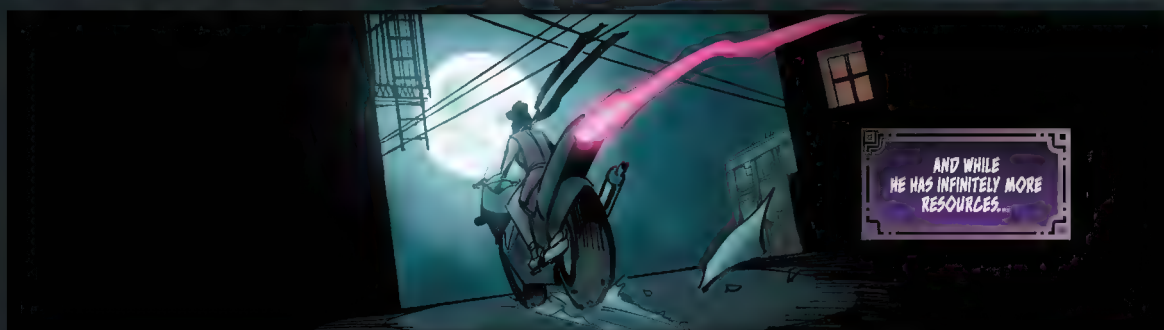
"SAKNGEA...
HIS NAME IS,
SAKNGEA."



NHEAN!



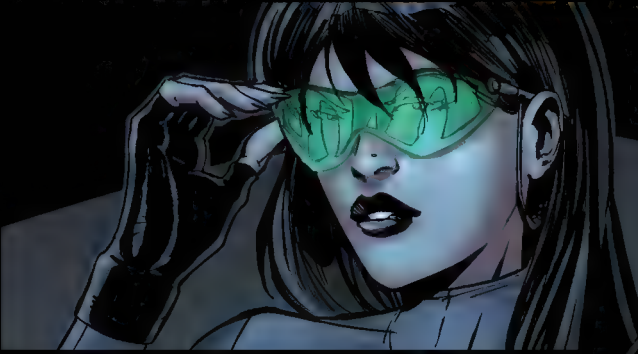
TIME IS AGAINST
ME. NO DOUBT
SHAO IS ALSO
TRYING TO FIND
CHERRY.



AND WHILE
HE HAS INFINITELY MORE
RESOURCES...

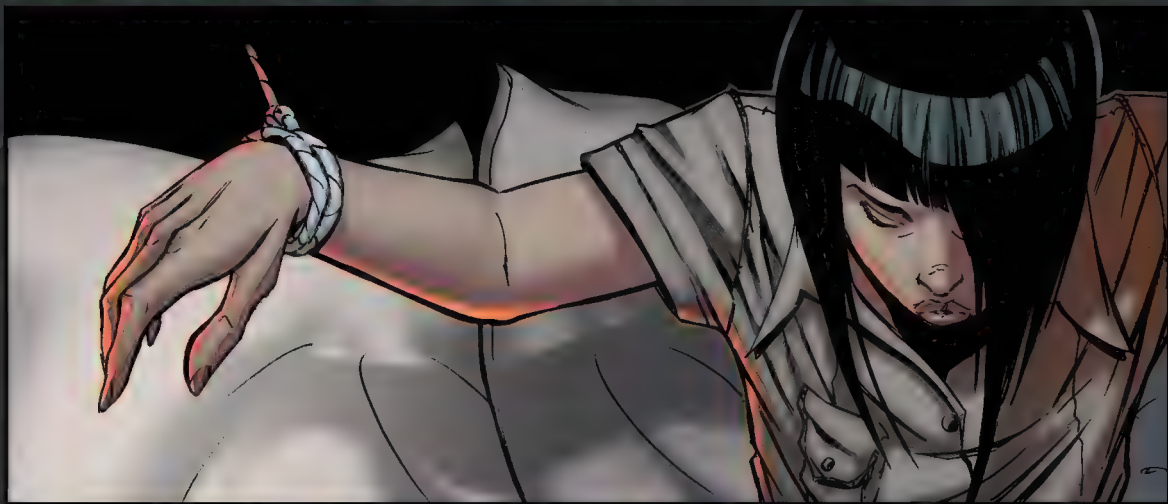


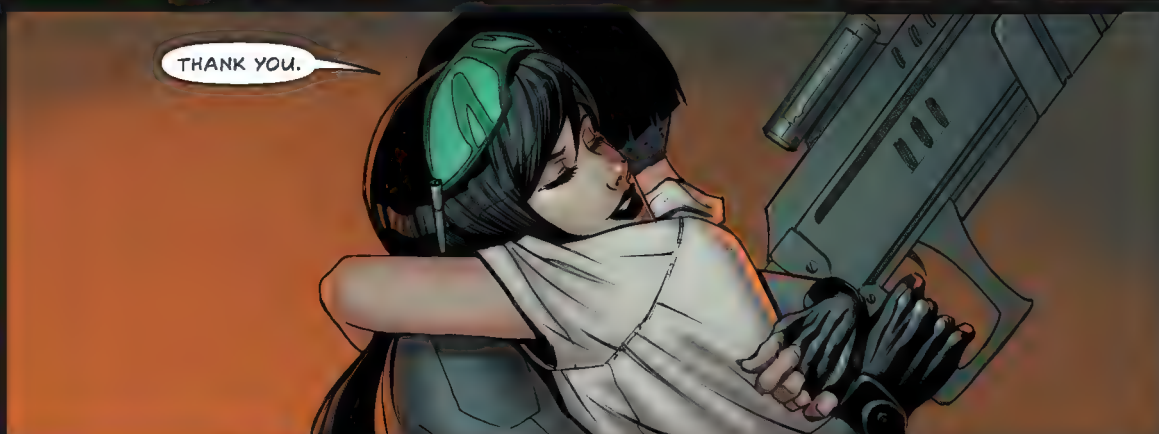
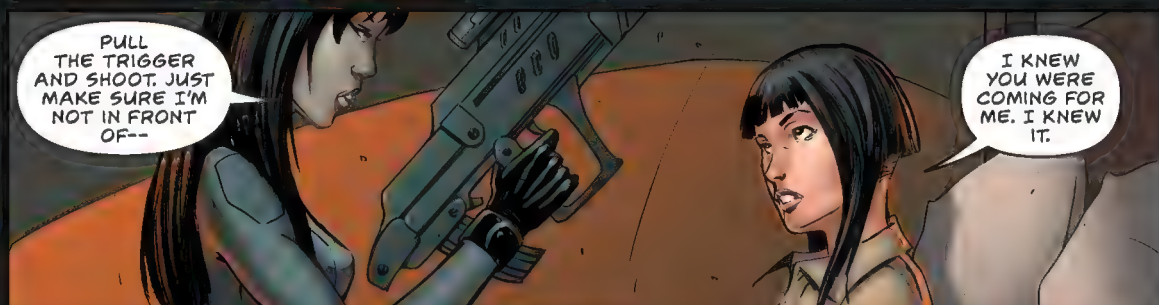
...I'M HIGHLY MOTIVATED.



CHOOM











TO BE
CONCLUDED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT! IRAN #5



ALL NEW BLOCKADE ENTERTAINMENT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

#5

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(DETECTIVE COMICS, THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

PENCILS BY:
PASQUALE QUALANO
(IDOLIZED, SOULFIRE, GRACE)

COLORS BY:
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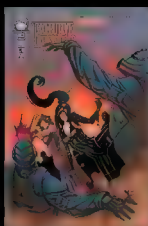
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HONOR BOUND

PART 5 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

story

PASQUALE QUALANO

pencils

JOHN ERCEK

digital inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

The story so far...

Iris gave Snapdragon a fatal lesson in combat amongst Executive Assistants, once again proving her reputation as the best of the best. However, a more complicated matter presented itself, as Iris discovered she was under contract as Cherry's Executive Assistant. With her sworn code of honor and moral obligation, she was forced to retrieve the young girl from the Cambodian Triad's possession before Shao--and the pair was aided by the arrival of Maly...

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO, ANDREA SHEA

Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: ROBIN SPEHAR

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ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 5

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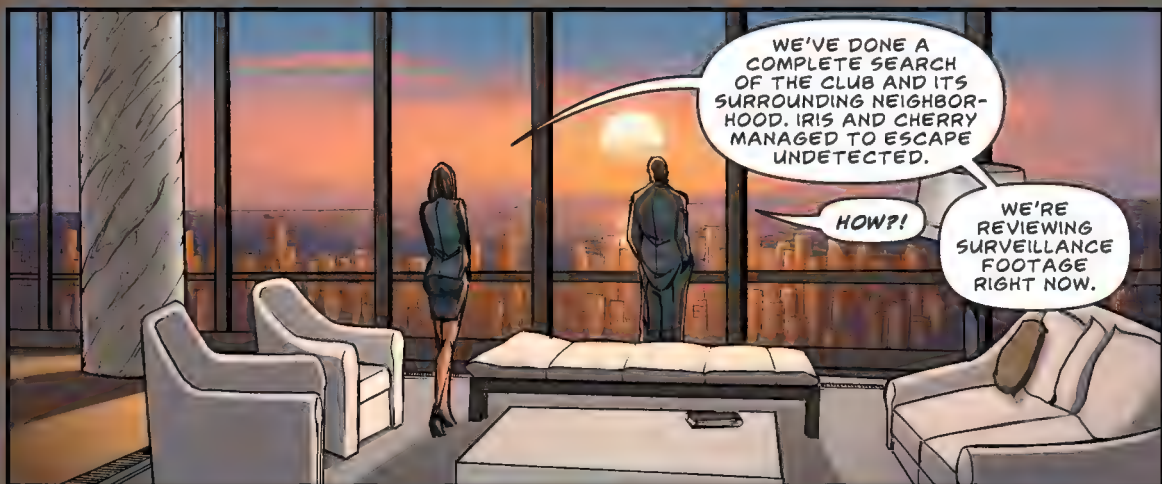
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WE'VE DONE A COMPLETE SEARCH OF THE CLUB AND ITS SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD. IRIS AND CHERRY MANAGED TO ESCAPE UNDETECTED.

HOW?!

WE'RE REVIEWING SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE RIGHT NOW.



DON'T BOTHER. IT WAS MALY AND HER ASSISTANT. EVERY STEP OF THE WAY IT'S BEEN THEM.



BUT I'M DONE PLAYING THESE GAMES! TEAR IT ALL DOWN.

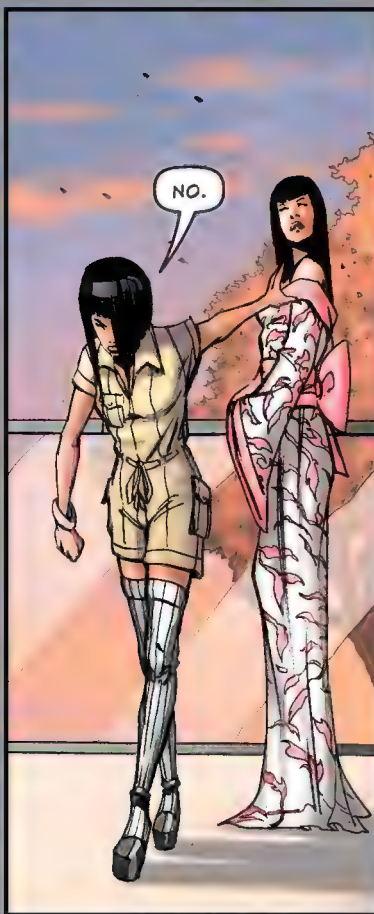
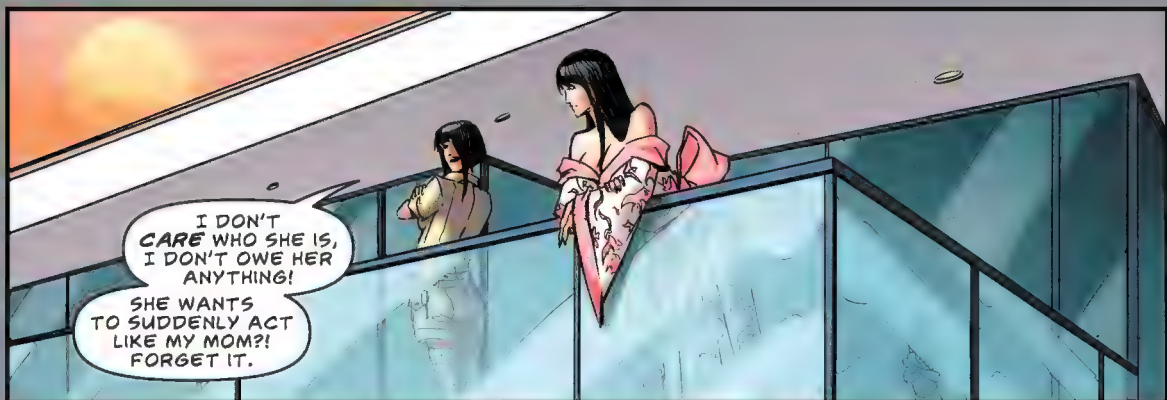
EVERYTHING, MISTER SHAO?

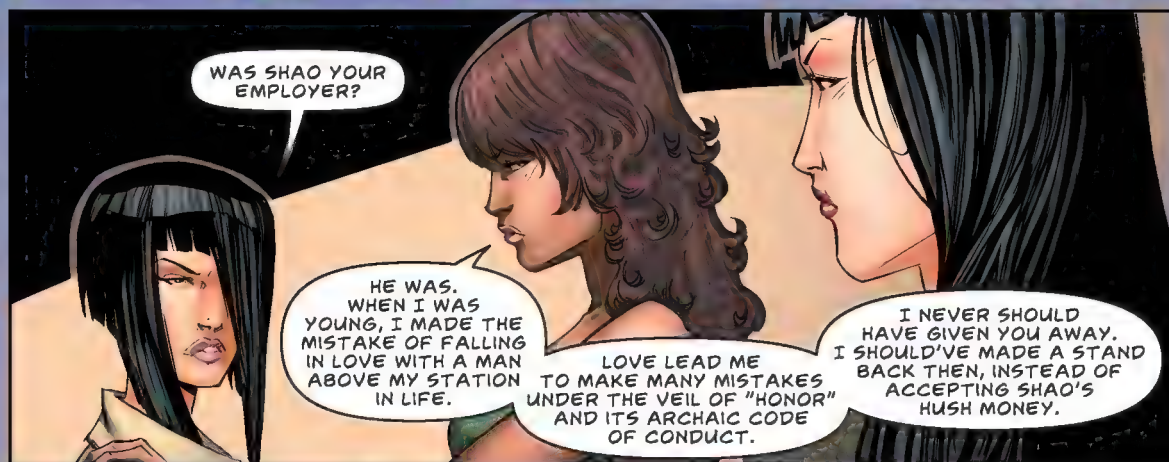


ALL OF IT. SEIZE MALY ANG'S ASSETS... PURCHASE CONTROLLING INTERESTS IN ALL HER HOLDINGS. BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY I WANT HER RUINED.



AND HER EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SCHOOL... KILL EVERYONE AND BURN IT TO THE GROUND.

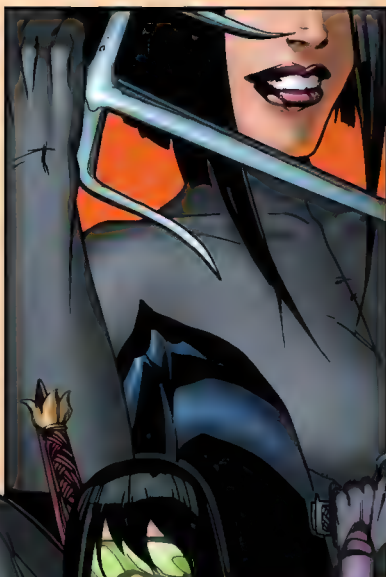






WE'VE
GOT WORK
TO DO.

CHK-
CHK



ARE WE
READY?

HELL,
YEAH.

THE WUHAN ACADEMY.





MISS
ANG...



...IT IS
DONE.

THANK
YOU, TEACHER.
MOVING ON TO
PHASE TWO...

DOWNTOWN BEIJING.



ARE YOU
SURE YOU
WANT TO BE
A PART OF
THIS?



I WILL
TAKE THAT AS
A "YES."

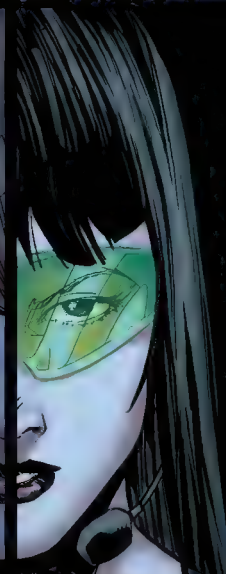


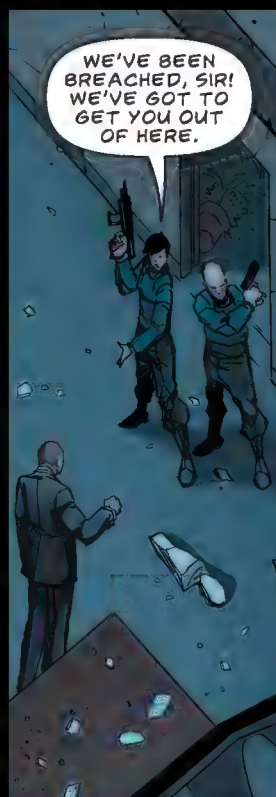
IRIS...WE'RE
READY.

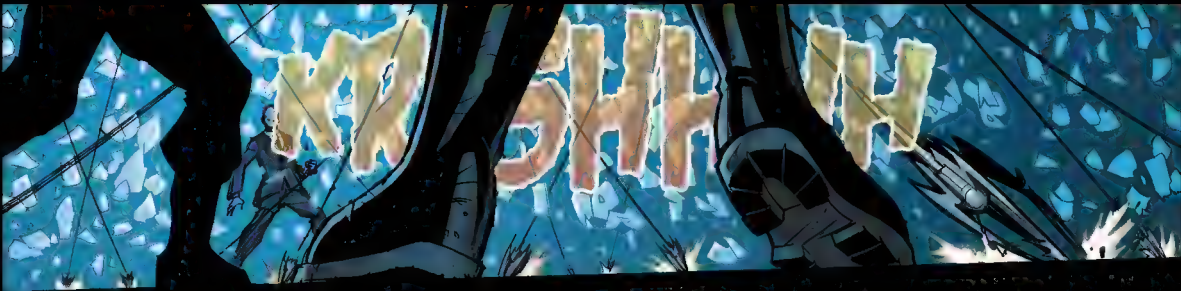


COPY
THAT.

"WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!"







TATTATTATTATTATTATTATTAT



TATTATTATTATTATTATTATTAT



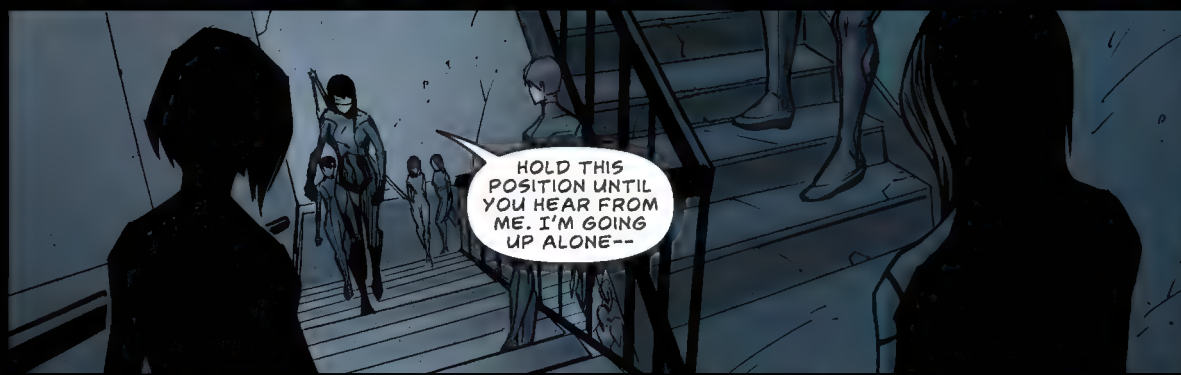


OKAY,
TEAM TWO...
WE'VE FLUSHED
SHAO OUT.



WE'RE
READY TO
GO, TEACHER
IRIS.

NO.
CHANGE OF
PLANS.



HOLD THIS
POSITION UNTIL
YOU HEAR FROM
ME. I'M GOING
UP ALONE--



WAIT.
WHERE'S
CHERRY?

WHERE'S
CHERRY?!

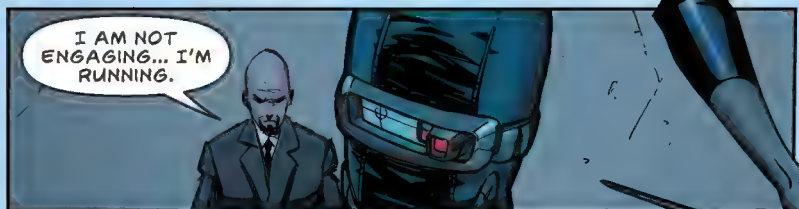


NOBODY
COMES UP THESE
STAIRS!



WHY ARE WE
RUNNING?!

WE
ARE ENGAGING
THEM RIGHT NOW AND
REINFORCEMENTS ARE
MINUTES AWAY. WE
AREN'T RUNNING,
SIR.



I AM NOT
ENGAGING... I'M
RUNNING.

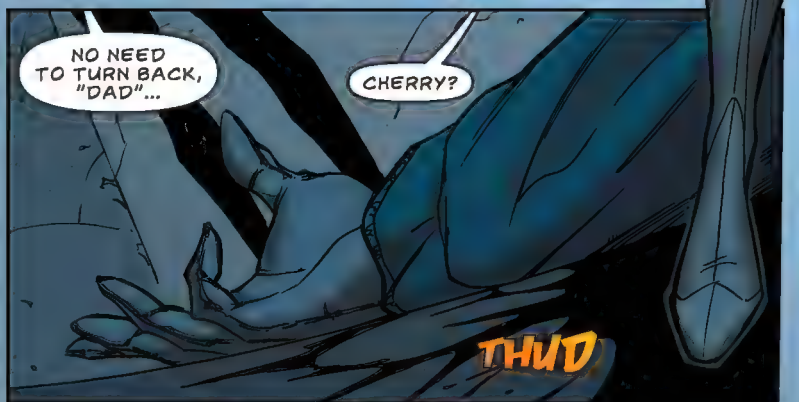


PLEASE,
MISTER SHAO...
WE MUST---

--THIS IS
UNACCEPTABLE! I'M
GOING BACK...



THK



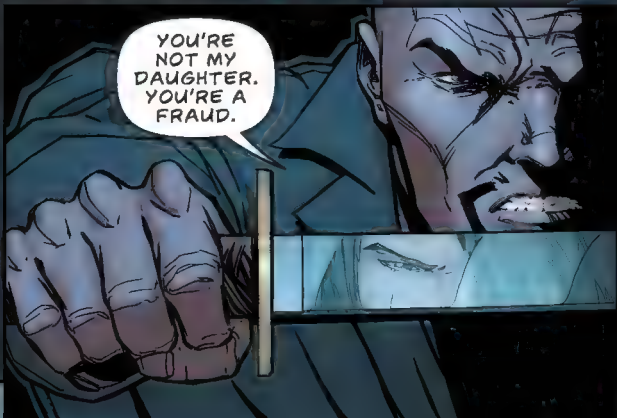
NO NEED
TO TURN BACK,
"DAD"...

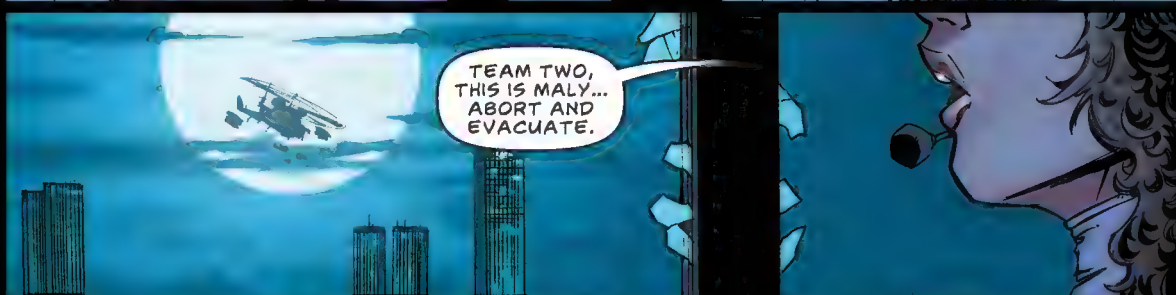
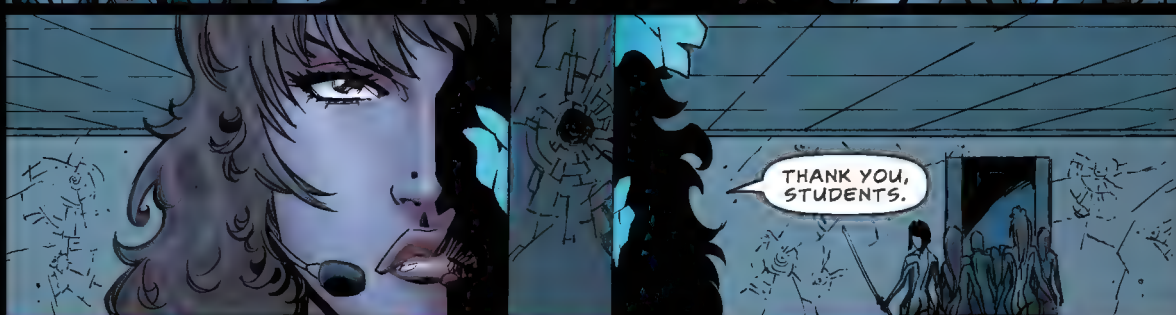
CHERRY?

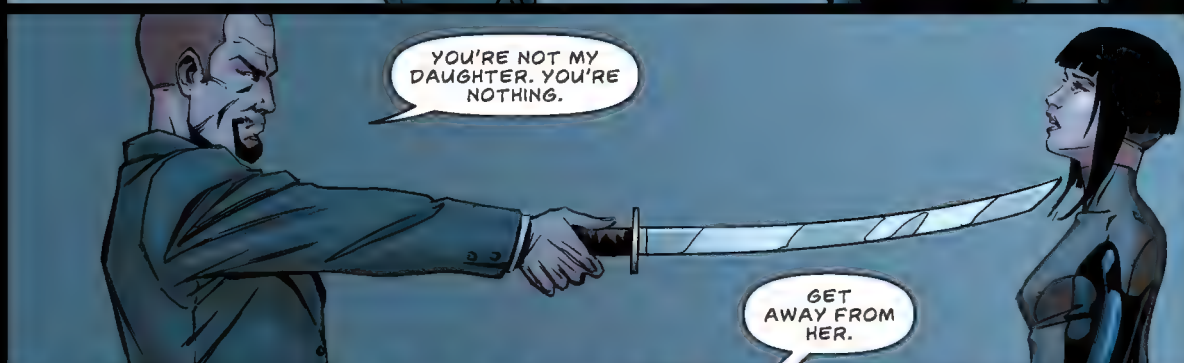
THUD

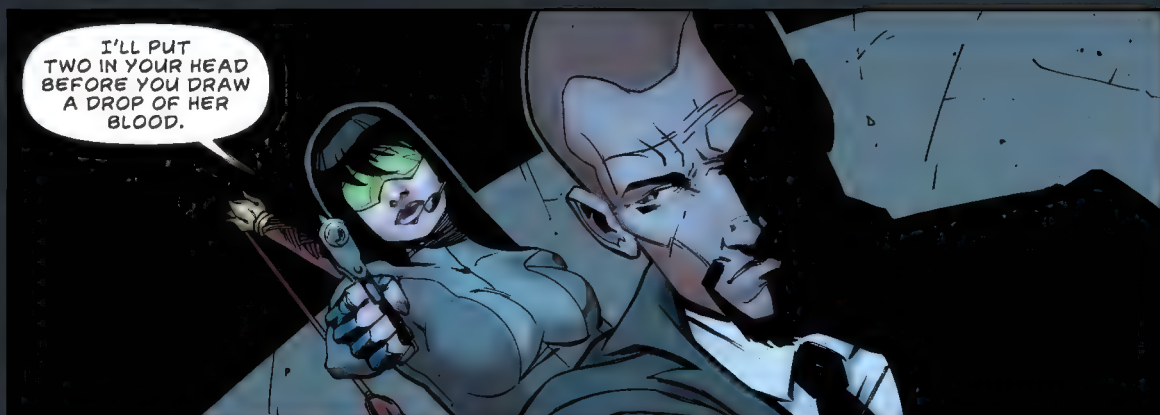


I DIDN'T
ASK TO BE YOUR
DAUGHTER... AND
I NEVER WANTED
TO BE PART OF
YOUR LIFE.









I'LL PUT
TWO IN YOUR HEAD
BEFORE YOU DRAW
A DROP OF HER
BLOOD.



TEAM TWO...
IT'S OVER.
EVACUATE THE
TOWER AT ONCE
AND MEET AT THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT.

ENJOY YOUR LITTLE
VICTORY, IRIS. BECAUSE
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME,
YOU WILL **ALL** DIE. EVERY LAST
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT...
INCLUDING HER.



LET'S
SETTLE THIS
ONCE AND FOR
ALL. RIGHT
NOW.



THE NEXT
FLOOR UP IS
BEING REMODELED.
WIDE OPEN SPACE...
BEAUTIFUL
VIEW...
...THE PERFECT
PLACE TO END YOUR
MISERABLE LIFE.

LEAD
THE WAY.





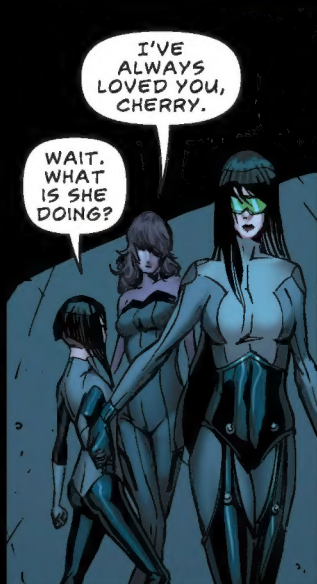
YOUR
ARMY IS
HERE, SHAO...
CALL THEM
OFF.

IT'S
OVER.

NEVER.

THEN
YOU DIE
FIRST--

NO, IRIS...





IS THAT
IT? IT'S
OVER?



THOOO



NOW IT'S
OVER.



I'M SORRY
FOR YOUR LOSS,
CHERRY.



NOW
WHAT?

WHATEVER
YOU WANT.
I'M HERE
FOR YOU.



IRIS... DID
WE HAVE TO
BLOW UP THE
SCHOOL?

PROBABLY
NOT.

DIDN'T
THINK SO...

THE END.
THANK YOU FOR READING
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS
IRIS WILL BE BACK!



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